ORIGINAL STORY
HIROYUKI MORIOKA
COMIC'S AUTHOR
WASOH MIYAKOSHI

SEIKAI TRILOGY

# BANNER OF THE STARS II

PROTECTING THE PRECIOUS

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# BANNER OF THE STARS II

## PROTECTING THE PRECIOUS

## VOL. 3

Original Story by
HIROYUKI MORIOKA

Manga by
Wasoh Miyakoshi

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# STORY SO FAR

ensure their mutual safety and escape with the ship's datalogs The harrowing experience created for them an unbreakable bond of friendship

While Abh forces successfully liberated Clasbul from the United Mankind, Jinto's homeworld in the Hyde System fell to enemy forces The resulting battle exhausted the military might of all sides, and both the Abh and the United Mankind turned their attention to training officers and constructing massive fleets of formidable interstellar warships.

Three years later, Lafiel was promoted to captain of her own Assault Ship, the Basroil, and requested the services of Jinto Lin as her supply officer Together, the two friends fought in Operation Phantom Flame, a massive military campaign intended to break the backbone of the United Mankind military effort The massive undertaking involved thousands of ships on each side and inflicted untold numbers of casualties. While the campaign was ultimately a success, the Assault Ship Basroil suffered a fatal hit, forcing the evacuation of the crew While endeavoring to save a trapped officer, Jinto ended up needing rescue himself. Moments before his death, Lafiel pulled him from the crumbling ship, assuring that both would live to fight another day.

With the military push a success, the Empire found itself in the position of consolidating its conquests. The empire presented Lafiel with new Assault Ship to carry on the name of Basroil and assigned her to Operation Hunter. Its mission – to oversee administrative matters necessary to the expansion of the Humankind Empire Abh Despite the apparent mundanity of their task, Lafiel, Jinto and the crew of the Basroil knew that before long they would be called upon once again to battle for the honor of the Empire

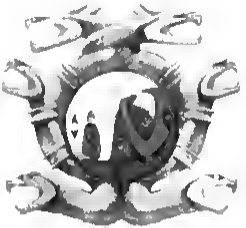
# SEIKAI TRILOGY

Count Jinto Lin of the Hyde Star System is a lander, catapulted to the status of Abh nobility in the wake of a political deal. The agreement, struck between his father, the president of Planet Martine, and the Humankind Empire Abh, transformed Jinto's life and subjected the young count to the unending consternation of his own people and the vagaries of interstellar politics

For years, the races of humankind have resented the genetic disposition and technical superiority of the Abh–genetically enhanced humans who have blossomed into an ageless, space-faring race As Abh dominance over galactic trade increased, the other human worlds began to form alliances to oppose the further expansion of the Abh Empire and even regain trading right over worlds conquered by the Abh Though genetically different from his Abh compatriots, Jinto is embroiled in their burgeoning conflict The tension between the Humankind Empire Abh and the rest of the human worlds finally erupted into full-scale, interstellar war four years ago when the alliances attacked and destroyed the Abh Patrol Ship Gosroth.

At that time, Jinto Lin's life became entwined with that of Lafiel, the granddaughter of the Abh Empress Ramaj and a pilot trainee on the patrol ship Gosroth. The attack on the Gosroth forced Lafiel to abandon ship with Jinto in the hope that she'll be able to evade the assault force and carry her charge and the Gosroth's datalogs to the Imperial Capital of Lakfakelle.

Resuming course for the capital, Jinto and Lafiel were chased by the forces of their enemy, the United Mankind. In order to escape, the two fugitives crash-landed on the occupied Planet Clasbul, which was struggling to adjust to the presence of the occupying army. Trapped on the surface, Jinto and Lafiel worked together to

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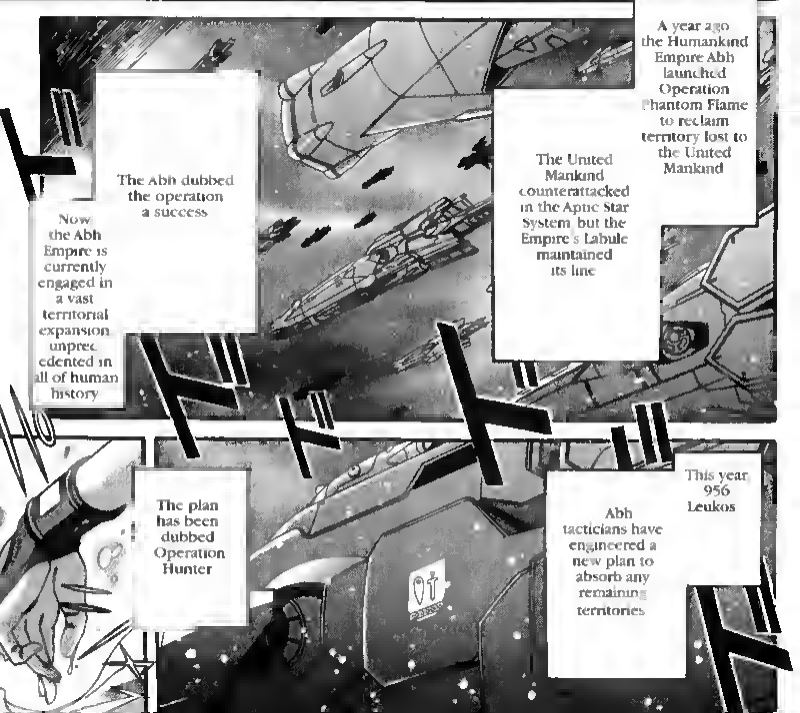
Chapter 1
Operation Hunter

TO THE LOBNAS STAR SYSTEM NO LESS!
SO ONCE AGAIN, YOU'RE A KUFALIA!
THAT'S QUITE AN HONORABLE TITLE.
AND I, WELL... I'M A ROY KUFALIA... ONCE AGAIN.
I KNOW THAT TOO IS QUITE AN HONORABLE TITLE I SHOULD KNOW I'VE ALREAD HAD IT ONCE FOR THE APTIC SYSTEM.
PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO SWAP JOBS...
DON'T TEMPT ME WITH GLORY WHEN YOU CAN'T DELIVER.
HMM...
JINTO.
Supply Officer Jinto, Count Lin Sun Rock Count Hyde, the Drill Hydai
Captain Abriel Nei Dobrusk The Bel Paryun Lafiel

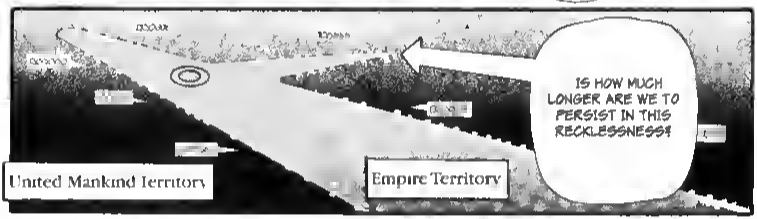
I MADE HER MAD.
OKAY


A year ago the Humankind Empire Abh launched Operation Phantom Flame to reclaim territory lost to the United Mankind
The United Mankind counterattacked in the Aptic Star System, but the Empire's Labule maintained its line
The Abh dubbed the operation a success
Now the Abh Empire is currently engaged in a vast territorial expansion unprecedented in all of human history
This year, 956 Leukos
Abh tacticians have engineered a new plan to absorb any remaining territories
The plan has been dubbed Operation Hunter

LAUNCH HOKSAS!
THIS IS HARDLY A BATTLE AT ALL
THE OPERATION IS APTLY NAMED. WE'RE PLAYING A GAME WITH OUR PREY.
WE'RE PROCEEDING ON SCHEDULE.
WE'VE ENCOUNTERED ANOTHER RETREATING ENEMY FLEET
SMALL-SCALE FRAGAS HAVE EMERGED FROM THE CENTRAL CLUSTER!
MOST LIKELY HOKSAS.
A HUNT IN THE TRUEST SENSE OF THE WORD
Operation Hunter Fourth Fleet, the Graga Sukakau
BYURU GONA
Commander in Chief Admiral Bebaus
the Yalulug Nereis Alon Nerem
CRAELLEL FRODE BLEVES

HOW WAS YOUR BATH.
NEREIS?
REALLY
I DON'T *MIND* IF YOU TAKE A BATH IN THE MIDDLE OF A BATTLE. BUT...
AT LEAST DRY YOUR HAIR BEFORE REPORTING TO THE BRIDGE.
Chief of Staff Bebaus the Yalulug Nefee Alon Nerem
WASS KASALFI SHUWAS BEBAUS
I'LL BE MORE COURTEOUS IN THE FUTURE
WHAT IS THE SITUATION, NEFEE?
OUR FORCES WERE VICTORIOUS
WE'VE YET TO CONFIRM HOW MANY SHIPS WE LOST
IT'S NEGLIGIBLE, I'M SURE.
NATURALLY. IT'S THE PRECIPITOUS RESULTS OF HAVING A GOOD GRAHALEL

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU BELIEVE...
...THEN I WON'T CASTIGATE YOU FOR LEAVING THE BRIDGE IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE
OR FOR BEING SUCH A SMUG BASTARD
WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TELL ME...
...NEREIS...

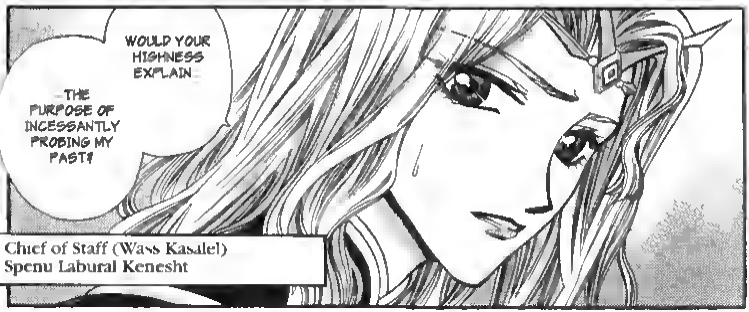

IS HOW MUCH LONGER ARE WE TO PERSIST IN THIS RECKLESSNESS?
United Mankind Territory
Empire Territory

OTHER FLEETS DO NOT DRIVE THEMSELVES SO HARD!
...
OH, BUCK UP, BROTHER!
IT IS OUR GREAT HONOR TO EXPAND THE FURYU BAL
AND OUR EXPANSION HAS ALREADY DEFIED EXPECTATIONS
SURELY, THAT ENTITLES US TO A BATH PERHAPS?

NEFEE...
HERE YOU ARE, THE GRAHALEL, LAMENTING ADMINISTRATIVE SHORTAGES!
FOCUS ON MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS!
YES EXPANSION
WE'VE ALREADY ASSIGNED MOST ALL OUR TOSEL AND KUFALIA TO CONQUERED WORLDS
I TAKE MY POSITION AS GRAHALEL VERY SERIOUSLY.
WITH EACH CHOICE, I METICULOUSLY BALANCE THE FUTURE OF THE FLEET WITH THE HONOR OF OUR FAMILY.
IT'S THE HONOR OF OUR FAMILY THAT CONCERNS ME THE MOST IN THIS INSTANCE
IN OUR PARTICULAR CASE...
YOU MEAN OUR "SPECTACULAR INSANITY," RIGHT?

Hunter Fleet Flagship, the Graga Sankau
BYURU BREG
THE FELIA FROM THE BYURU GONA BREG HAS DOCKED
THE BYURU GONA. THAT'S FRODE BEBAUS' COMMAND. IS IT NOT? YOU KNEW HIM ONCE. YES?
BEFORE HE WAS EVER A FRODE
THE FRODE BEBAUS I KNEW DISAPPEARED LONG AGO.
I MAY HAVE EVEN LOVED HIM THEN...
II HA HA.

AH, THE SECRET IS FINALLY REVEALED
Operation Hunter Commander in-Chief (Byuru Breg Grahalel) the Lue Spenu Abriel


WOULD YOUR HIGHNESS EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF INCESSANTLY PROBING MY PAST?
Chief of Staff (Wass Kasalel) Spenu Labural Kenesht

NOW THERE'S A STINGING REBUKE
SIMPLY TO ENTERTAIN YOURSELF, FEIA LALTO
YOU ENJOY DREDGING UP MY PRIVATE LIFE LIKE THIS OF COURSE.
YOU MISTAKE MY INTEREST AS SUSPICION
IF I DESIRE SIMPLY TO PROBE YOUR PAST, THERE ARE MORE RELIABLE METHODS AT MY DISPOSAL

IN YOUR OPINION
WOULDN'T YOU SAY HIS FLEET IS ADVANCING TOO FAR TOO QUICKLY?
THE FLEET OF FRODE BEBAUS THE MAN I DON'T LOVE?
YES, THAT FLEET
THEY ARE ADVANCING QUICKLY
BUT
IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT
IF THEY FALL INTO AN AMBUSH
WE HAVE THE SHIP'S TO RESCUE THEM
AND IF THE ENEMY DARES TO SURROUND THEM, THAT WOULD GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY
TO BLAST THEM INTO THE DARKEST OBLIVION
THERE'S SOMETHING FRIGHTENING ABOUT YOU
YOU'D USE THE MAN YOU LOVED AS BAIT?

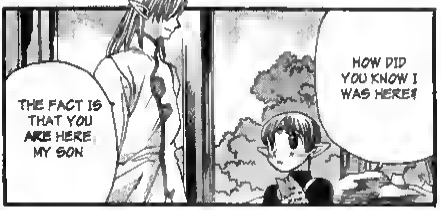
OF COURSE ADVANCES MADE BY NEREIS AND THE SYURU GONA WERE NOT PART OF YOUR PLAN.
THERE ARE NO STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT SYSTEMS ON THEIR CURRENT COURSE.
AND YOU'VE DEVOTED AS MUCH THOUGHT TO THE SYURU KASNA TOO, RIGHT?
I WOULDN'T PUT IT QUITE THAT WAY.
MY TACTICS AND MY THIRST FOR REVENGE ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE.
TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST...
THE GRAHALEL OF THE SYURU KASNA HAS THE CAPABILITY AND KEEN ENOUGH INSIGHT TO ASSESS ANY SITUATION
UNLIKE NEREIS AND THE SYURU GONA.
SURELY YOU RECALL MY INTENSE OPPOSITION
TO GIVING FRODE SEBAUS SUCH A PROMINENT POSITION.
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN
SO
WOULDN'T IT BE BEST TO PUT AN END TO HIS LITTLE ADVENTURE?

I SEE YOU'RE ALREADY CONSIDERING THE BIGGER PICTURE.
IT'S A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE
ULTIMATELY, I'M THE WASS KASALEL FOR ALL OF KUFAZET BREG
THIS ADVANCE IS BEING LED BY A GRAHALEL WHOM YOU THINK INCAPABLE.
AND YET YOU SAY THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR ANXIETY? I CAN'T SAY I UNDERSTAND
YES.
I HAVEN'T TAKEN THE LATEST INTELLIGENCE INTO ACCOUNT, BUT...
...IF THE RYURU GONA IS ATTACKED BY THE REMNANTS OF THE ENEMY...
...THERE IS AN EIGHTY PERCENT CHANCE THAT THE LOSSES TO KUFAZET BREG WILL BE MINIMAL.

SO YOU SUGGEST WE ALLOW THE BYURU GONA TO ADVANCE...
VERY WELL. I WILL NOT ORDER THEM TO STOP
HOWEVER, AS YOU SAID, WE SHOULD BE READY TO MOUNT A RESCUE IF NECESSARY
PLEASE ORGANIZE OUR SHIPS INTO SQUADRONS IMMEDIATELY
YES
WHO SHOULD COMMAND THE RESCUE FLEET?
IF A BATTLE DOES BREAK OUT AROUND OUR MOST REMOTE FORCES
THE RESCUE FLEET WILL BECOME THE KEY TO KUFAZET BREG
CONSIDERING THAT...
FORCES AWAY!!
I THINK WE SHOULD ASSIGN COMMAND TO FRODE TRIFE
Hunter Twenty First Fleet
Graga Suurubilsh, Admiral Trife Commanding
BYURU MATROKYITONA

SURELY HE'LL FIGHT FIERCELY FOR US
YES
ASSIGN FRODE TRIFE TO THE APPROPRIATE STAR SYSTEM IMMEDIATELY SO HE CAN BEGIN AMASSING HIS FORCES
FRODE SPOOR
THEN
THE BYURU GONA WILL NEED A DESIGNATED BACK-UP FORCE ASSIGN THAT COMMAND TO
YAWN...
Operation Hunter First Fleet, the Graga Lashkau Admiral Spoor Commanding
BYURU KASNA

YOU MUST BE DIAHO, RIGHT?
Pat Pat
MEEOW
Feline Nourishment Facility at Clyuve Royal Palace
LAKFAKALLE THE IMPERIAL AROSH
THE LAUBEI CLYUVE KAFA DYU KAI
AH, YOU LOOK SO SAD, LITTLE ONE
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE DRIL HYDAL?
SAYING GOODBYE TO THE CATS, DUHIEL?


HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?
THE FACT IS THAT YOU ARE HERE, MY SON

ザッ

DON'T BE DISRE-SPECTFUL TOWARD YOUR FATHER
Lalsu Kyuv Dobyusu of the Clyuve Family

UH?
ふぇ～!!

NOT AN IMPRESSIVE SPECIMEN...
...LALTOSU

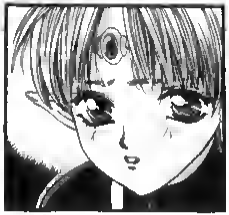
I WOULD NEVER BE DISRE-SPECTFUL!
GLAD TO HEAR IT!
?
IS THAT THE BEAST LAFIEL GAVE TO THE DRIL HYDAL?
YES HIS NAME IS DIAHO

IT'S TRUE THE BEAST WAS BORN AN ABRIEL
BUT NOW HE BELONGS TO THE DRIL
IT'S JUST THAT HE SPENT TIME WITH LAFIEL
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BE ACCUSED OF STEALING HIM. WOULD YOU?
I WASN'T TRYING TO STEAL HIM...
HE WAS WITH YOUR OLDER SISTER. HOW IS THAT RELEVANT?
WELL IT'S JUST
YOU'RE STRUGGLING FOR WORDS, SALUKUSON
IS SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU?
YOU CAME HERE TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE YOU KNEW WOULDN'T EXPOSE THAT WHICH AILS YOU
NO. THAT'S NOT IT
AND SINCE THE CAT WAS CLOSE TO LAFIEL, YOU FELT--

AGAIN, SO MUCH LIKE YOUR SISTER
YOU'RE BOTH SUCH TERRIBLE LIARS

YOU BOTH TURN RED WHEN I DIVINE THE TRUTH.
YOU ARE TRULY A SOKU JENNA.

NO! YOU'RE WRONG!
BUT I ALSO JUST WANTED TO SEE DIAHO!
YEAH, I WANT TO TALK TO LAFIEL, SO WHAT?



THEN TELL ME EVERYTHING.

I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT
TELL ME— WHY IS THAT SUCH A BAD THING?

FATHER!

I'M SO DIFFERENT THAN MY SISTER

OH, I SEE
YOU'RE AFRAID YOU'RE FALLING BEHIND
IT'S NOT FAIR
AT MY AGE SHE WAS HALF WAY DONE
WHEN SHE WAS FIFTEEN, SHE WAS ALREADY A SEHE RODAIL
BUT I'M ONLY IN MY FIRST YEAR AT THE KENLE.
YOU'RE THE SAME AGE I WAS WHEN I STARTED AT THE KENLE
YOU CAN'T LET THAT WORRY YOU LAFIEL WAS A SPECIAL CASE
BUT
IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH BEING LIKE YOUR FATHER?
YOU AND LAFIEL ARE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
IF YOU BOTH GREW UP THE SAME WAY, PARENTHOOD WOULDN'T BE NEARLY AS EXCITING
...MY PRECIOUS NADOGU.

なぞ
なぞ
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG MY SEKASUIA ABRIELSAL
BUT
SHE'S NOT JUST DIFFERENT
SHE'S BETTER--
Meet who...
supplied half of your genes
PERHAPS I WAS UNFAIR
AS MUCH AS I ENJOYED WATCHING HER GROW UP
OUR FEIA LATONEL DIDN'T ENJOY HER CHILDHOOD AS SHE SHOULD HAVE
BUT I WANT
TO GROW UP FAR TOO QUICKLY TOO!
SHE GREW UP FAR TOO QUICKLY

AT LEAST YOU CAN ADMIT YOU'VE GOT SOME GROWING LEFT TO DO
MY ASOG
STILL A CHILD, AND YET SO CRITICAL OF YOURSELF
THE PRIDE WE HAVE FOR YOU, CHILD
WILL ONLY GROW WITH TIME
BUT
YES!
NEVER MIND
I SHALL WORK HARD TO MAKE YOU PROUD OF ME
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU SHALL DO
I'M GLAD WE COULD HAVE THIS CONVERSATION
IT MIGHT BE THE LAST CHANCE TO DO SO IN QUITE AWHILE
HUH?
YOUR FATHER HAS RETURNED TO ACTIVE DUTY IN THE LABULE

HEROES
I SUSPECT MY SERVICES WILL BE REQUIRED VERY SOON
FATHER
YOU WOULD
..LEAVE ME HERE
IN LAFIEL'S SHADOW?
TEN SECONDS TO FASSAGE THROUGH THE LODNAS SORD
5
8
7
6

4
PASSAGE ACHIEVED!
3
2
1
Operation Hunter Fourth Fleet the Gel Basroil
BYLRU GONA
EVERY MEMBER OF THE LABULE MUST SHARE IN THE BURDEN
OF THIS SACRED DUTY TO THE FURYU BAL
COMM LINK IN PLACE
WELL?
EACH TIME A TERRITORY IS CAPTURED
SHE'S STILL UPSET

OUR FORCES CONQUERED THE LOBNAS STAR SYSTEM. AND NOW WE'VE EXTENDED OUR CONTROL TO THE NAHEN BELOW.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO RISE TO THE OCCASION
ANY ONE OF US MAY BE CALLED UPON TO SERVE AS KUFALIA
AT TIMES THAT BURDEN MAY BE A TEDIOUS ONE
I DON'T SEE THE WISDOM IN FRODE BEDAUS' NEW DIRECTIVE
WHY MUST KUFALIAS BE DRAWN SOLELY FROM THE RANKS OF THE NOBILITY?
...DU DISLIKE BEING KUFALIA THAT MUCH?
!

MORE LIKE...
...I'D RATHER BE DOING SOMETHING ELSE!
I UNDER-STAND
IT'S NOT THAT I DISLIKE IT!
JUST HAZARDING A GUESS
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

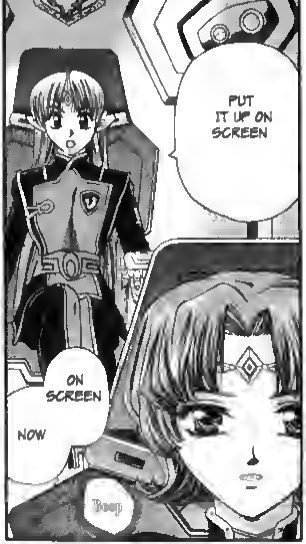

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, OF COURSE...
IF I WERE YOU...
I'D TRY TO SEE A DIFFERENCE FAST!
Senior Navigator Sobaash
AEM RODAIL LEKLE
I DON'T SEE HOW...
...ONE STATE DIFFERS FROM THE OTHER.
Line Wing Aviator Samson
BYUNUKEL FEKTODAI SKEM

WHOOPS
IF YOU TWO WANT TO GOSSIP ABOUT ME...
...YOU SHOULD DO IT OUT OF EARSHOT!

IT MAKES SENSE FOR GEL TO PROTECT THE ISAZU IN BATTLE..
BUT WHY ESCORT THEM DURING A ROUTINE DELIVERY?
APOLOGIES, MANOWAS
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THIS SITUATION.
YOU MEAN THE ISAZU?
.....
WE CAN'T BE FUSSY ABOUT OUR ASSIGNMENTS
Second Aviator Ekuryua
ROYAL/M ROYAL/E RINYU
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS JINTO?
IF YOU'RE ASKING ME TO BE HONEST, I PREFER THIS TO THE BATTLEFIELD
YOUR OPINION IS NOTED.
I NEVER SAID I DISLIKE IT.
THIS IS MY DUTY AFTER ALL!
.....

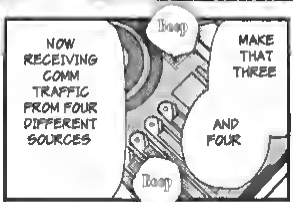
MANOWAS
IT'S LOSNAS II.
I'M DETECTING AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVE EMANATING FROM THE NAMEN
!!
ARE WE BEING ATTACKED?!

ANOTHER TRANSMISSION, THIS TIME FROM A SATELLITE
TWO OF THEM?


PUT IT UP ON SCREEN
ON SCREEN NOW
Beep

NO, IT'S NOT AN ATTACK.
IT'S A TRANSMISSION.
Beep
I'VE ISOLATED THE ENCRYPTION CODE.
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT.

EACH ONE CLAIMS TO BE THE SEIMEI SOSU.


Beep
NOW RECEIVING COMM TRAFFIC FROM FOUR DIFFERENT SOURCES
MAKE THAT THREE
AND FOUR
Beep

.....

OUR PRIORITY IS WHOEVER IS IN CHARGE, THE SEIMEI SOSU!
MANOWAS!

CAN WE OPEN ALL FOUR CHANNELS?
THAT CAN'T BE
WELL, GIVE ME A SHOT AT IT THEN
BE MY GUEST
I CAN'T LISTEN TO FOUR PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME!!
RINYUL EKURYUA.
OPEN ALL FOUR CHANNELS!

CHANNELS OPEN
HA HA. WELL...
I AM THE ROY KUFALIA. AND THAT--
!!
AS YOU WISH MANOWAS

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SEIKAI TRILOGY

# BANNER OF THE STARS™ II

Jinto and Lafiel are now Territorial Ambassadors to the regions the Abh Empire has seized from the United Mankind. Jinto is assigned to an unstable post on Lobnas II, a volatile prison planet. When the United Mankind launches a massive offensive to reclaim Lobnas II, Jinto is stranded with no hope for survival! As time is running out, Lafiel has to make a life-or-death decision: rescue her friend who has been her mentor and guide...or retreat to protect the lives of her crew.

100% AUTHENTIC MANGA

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TEEN
AGE 13+

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SEIKAI TRILOGY
BANNER OF THE STARS
II
HIROYUKI MORIOKA
WASOH MIYAKOSHI
TOKYOPOP

THIS IS THE ROY KUFALIA, THE DRIL HYDAL
WITH ME IS THE KUFALIA, FEIABEL FARYUN
Chapter 2
World of Exile
NAHEN TEMPAYNT

I

Planet Lobnas II
NOT AT ONCE, PLEASE!
I CAN'T POSSIBLY...
JUST STOP
WE WERE NOT COUNTING ON THERE BEING FOUR SEIMEI SOSU ON A SINGLE NAHEN
WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO GET AN OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION
Why would you do that?
WE'RE LISTENING TO FOUR OF YOU AT ONCE.
BE AWARE OF WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH!

WOULD YOU EXPLAIN YOUR POSITION ONE AT A TIME?
YOU FIRST
TIME TO FIND OUT WHAT I REALLY NEED TO KNOW
UGH.
LET'S HOPE IT WAS THE RIGHT DECISION
WHAT ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE SYSTEM?
AND YOU
I am Geol Meideen Administrative
My name is Yuri Dokufu
WHAT?!

BUT THAT CONTRADICTS WHAT MR MEIDEEN JUST SAID
LANDERS

Mackay Angusson
That's all is it. We're the strongest. We're in a pickle

My name is Lala Shangai

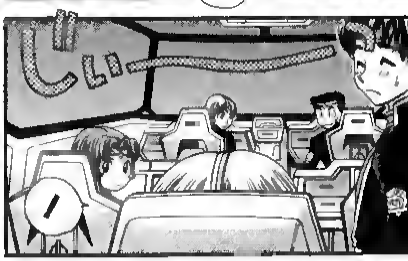
That will take too long!
WE'LL GIVE YOU SOME TIME TO WORK OUT A CONSENSUS
BEFORE WE PROCEED
HEH! WELL IT LOOKS LIKE NO ONE KNOWS WHO IS IN CHARGE
I am the only one with the [illegible] distribution channels to supply the [illegible]
And I [illegible]
MAYBE A LITTLE.
MISSING THE BATTLE-FIELD YET!
They have no right to take control!
A headless bureaucracy and a bankrupt world!
FSSSh
HA! Men are deadly unworthy [illegible]
We've forged solid relationships with everyone on Lobrias
That's not true

OKAY
We
criminals!
No. Now that you have liberated us from the United Mankind
suspended
CLOSE ALL FOUR CHANNELS
Flash
Vroop

THOSE WHO AREN'T WILLING TO LIVE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF CIVILIZED SOCIETY
ARE SENT AWAY TO OTHER STAR SYSTEMS
THE UNITED MANKIND HAS NO FORM OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
THEY REHABILITATE PRISONERS WITH THE HOPE OF RETURNING THEM TO SOCIETY
IT'S CLEAR LOBNAS II IS A PRISON PLANET
NO
CONSIDERING WHAT WE'VE SEEN COULD IT REALLY BE ANYTHING ELSE?
AND LOBNAS IS ONE OF THOSE SYSTEMS
AS JAILER, HE HAS DATA ON THE LOCAL POPULATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES TO GET THINGS DONE
HE'S THE OBVIOUS CHOICE.
AS YOU SAID EARLIER, OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS TO DETERMINE THE LEGAL SEIME! SOSU
THE CLOSEST THING, AS I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION, IS MR. MEIDEEN
WHAT WOULD YOU ADVISE?
ALM RODAI SOBAASH...

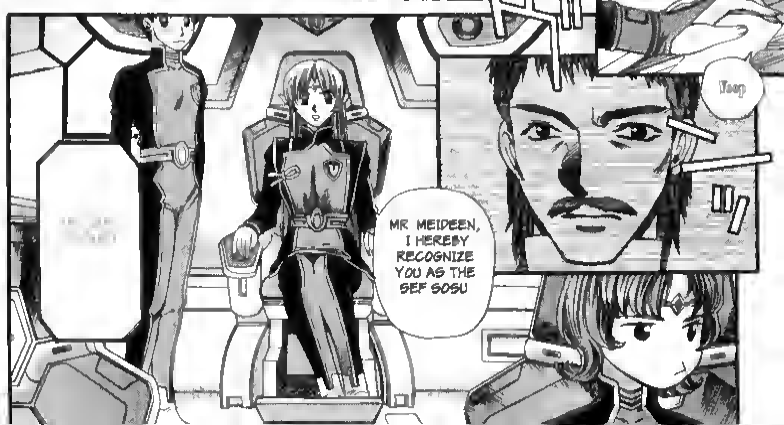
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU TWO!
I DON'T MAKE DECISIONS SIMPLY TO MAKE YOUR LIVES MORE INTERESTING!

BUT BORING
DAMN RIGHT



YES, HIM!

HIM?
RINYUL EKURYUA
OPEN A DIRECT CHANNEL TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR.


Yeap
MR MEIDEEN, I HEREBY RECOGNIZE YOU AS THE SEF SOSU

THEN PLEASE TELL US WHERE TO DELIVER YOUR PROVISIONS
YES.
CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE'LL SKIP THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY.
IF YOU ACCEPT ME AS YOUR KUFALIA, WE WILL HAVE SATISFIED NECESSARY PROTOCOLS.
SURFACE BATTLE? ARE THE PRISONERS ARMED?
WE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME MILITARY POWER.
!!
I ASSUME THAT WOULD STOP A REBELLION
AND IF YOU REQUEST IT, WE CAN BLAST AWAY YOUR ATMOSPHERE WITH OUR LANYU
Prisoners are forbidden to have weapons
However many just do
IF THERE IS AN UPRISING, WE SHALL STOP THE SUPPLY OF FOOD

THE ASH... I MEAN...
WE ACT FORCEFULLY AGAINST NAMEN AGITATION
THERE IS NO ILL WILL IN THE ACTION
INDEED, SO LET'S KEEP IT FROM HAPPENING
IN THE CASE OF AN ARMED UPRISING, DO YOU HAVE A RESPONSE STRATEGY?
can help us with ours.

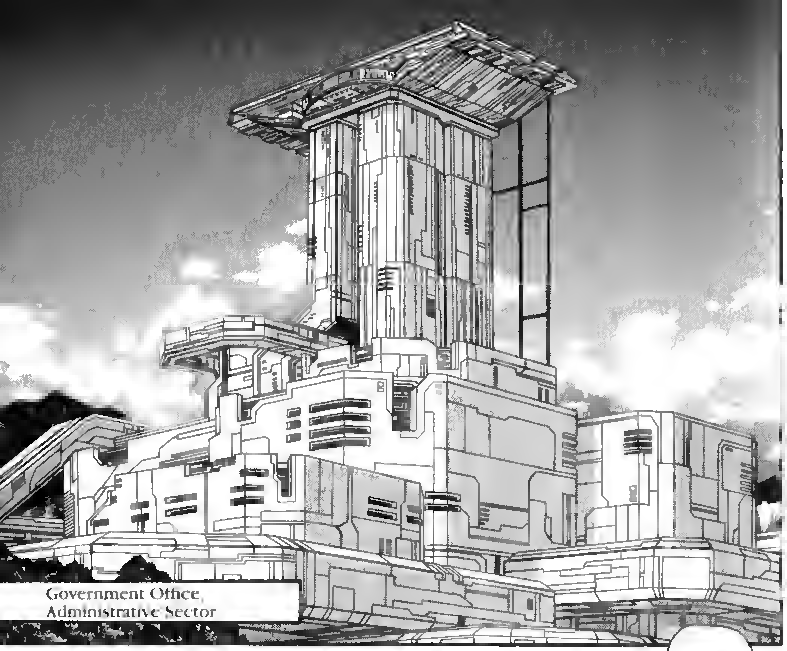
THE AEH DON'T DO WELL ON SURFACE WORLDS.
THEY'D BE MISERABLE DOWN THERE.
LAFIEL'S FIRST TRIP TO A NAHEN TERRIFIED HER.
WELL, IT WASN'T EASY FOR EITHER OF US...
BUT THAT'S WHAT BROUGHT US...

WELL, MANOWAR
I'M OFF TO PARTS UNKNOWN.
YES WE'LL BE LEAVING SHORTLY.
IS YOUR NAHEN DELEGATION READY?
!
CAN I BRING YOU BACK A SOUVENIR?
!
ONYU!
ゴオオオ

DAMN, HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?
WE'RE ABOUT TEN MINUTES FROM LANDING
SAMSON, DO YOU THINK EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY?
I THINK THOSE KIDS CAN PARK A GEL
BELIEVE ME, WE'RE IN FAR MORE DANGER THAN THE SHIP
THERE'S A WHOLE COMMUNITY OF CRIMINALS DOWN THERE.
Pat
Pat
BUT IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE BEEN ON LAND
I'D HATE TO LET THIS OPPORTUNITY SLIP AWAY
IT'LL PROBABLY BE BORING DOWN THERE
AT LEAST THE AIR WILL BE FRESH!

HERE WE ARE!
BLUE SEAS! BLUE SKIES!
NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL A NAHEN!

SALT?
AH, THE SMELL OF SALT IN THE AIR!
YEAH. THE SCENT OF BRINE IT'S THE SMELL OF THE OCEAN
YOU KNOW THAT
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE OCEAN
I SEE
WELL, YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL A TRUE SEA BY THE BRINE
caaa
caaa
caaa
caaa


Government Office,
Administrative Sector

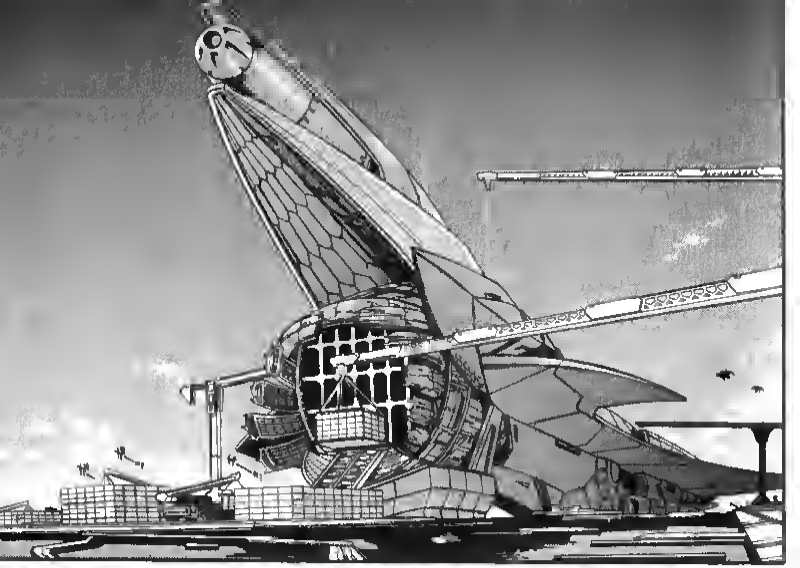
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MR. DIRECTOR.
THE PLEASURE IS MINE, YOUR EXCELLENCY.
THIS WAY PLEASE.

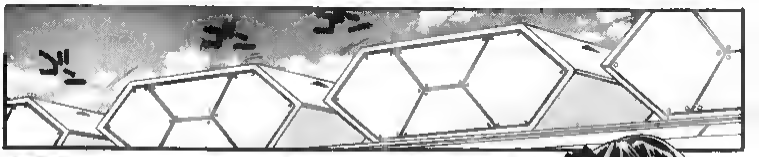
LAJAY ISLAND IS THE LARGEST LANDMASS ON LOSNAS II
NONE OF THE OTHERS IS INHABITED
THE RED AREAS ON THIS MAP ARE THE VARIOUS DETENTION SECTORS, AND THE WHITE AREA DENOTES THE CONTROL SECTOR.
ALLOW ME TO BRING YOU UP TO SPEED

A PATTERN OF GOOD BEHAVIOR?
NO, THEY MUST BE STERILIZED
WHY DON'T ALL THE PRISONERS LIVE IN THE MIXED AREA?
MIXED SECTOR PRISONERS MUST QUALIFY TO LIVE THERE.
WHAT ARE THESE LINES THROUGH THE RED SECTOR?
WALLS
THE EAST PORTION IS THE MEN'S SECTOR, THE WEST IS THE WOMEN'S, AND THE CENTER IS MIXED
A DETENTION CENTER IS NO PLACE TO RAISE A CHILD
TRUE, IT DEPRIVES THE PRISONERS OF A VITAL PART OF THE LIFE EXPERIENCE, BUT...
CHILDBIRTH WOULD COMPLICATE MATTERS
LUCKY GUESS
VERY ASTUTE YOUR EXCELLENCY
YOU ARE CORRECT
!
THE THREE "PRIME MINISTERS"
THEY EACH REPRESENT A SECTOR!

ARE YOU SUGGESTING THEY'LL ATTACK THE CONTROL SECTOR?
...ARE PREPARING FOR A REVOLT.
THEY'VE AMASSED WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE A FORMIDABLE ARSENAL.
BUT I'M AFRAID THAT THE POWER BALANCE MAY BE THREATENED
WE HAVE RECEIVED INTELLIGENCE THAT PRISONERS IN THE EASTERN SECTOR...
WITH THAT SECURE, THEY'LL MOVE ON TO THE WESTERN SECTOR
PERHAPS
BUT MOST LIKELY, THEY'LL INVADE THE CENTRAL SECTOR.
UH...
YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THE FULL EXTENT OF THE DANGER WE FACE!!
THAT SOUNDS HORRIBLE.
BUT I'M SURE THE PRISONERS IN THE WOMEN'S SECTOR ARE EXTREMELY WORRIED
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW THE POPULATION OF THE CENTRAL SECTOR FEELS ABOUT THE UPRISING
FORGIVE ME YOUR EXCELLENCY

FORGIVE MY FRANKNESS, BUT IT SEEMS TO ME...
MANY OF THE WOMEN IN THE WESTERN SECTOR WERE VICTIMS OF ABUSE AND TURNED TO CRIME TO ESCAPE THAT ABUSE.
QUITE SIMPLY, THEY'D PREFER A WORLD WITHOUT MEN.
CORRECT AGAIN.
I SHOULD HAVE MADE THAT CLEAR FROM THE BEGINNING.
WELL, IT SOUNDS TO ME THAT YOU'D BE HAPPY...
...TO WASH YOUR HANDS OF THIS ENTIRE SITUATION.
JUST ABOUT EVERYONE IN THE CONTROL SECTOR...
WANTS SIMPLY TO GO HOME.





THE DISTRIBUTION CENTER IS A TEMPTING TARGET WE HAVE TO KEEP THE PERIMETER SEALED
WITH A REVOLT BREWING
WE'LL HAVE TO AIRLIFT THESE SUPPLIES AND DROP THEM FROM ABOVE
IT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH
THE SUPPLIES APPEAR WELL GUARDED

THE EASTERN DETENTION SECTOR

HOLY SHIT!
WHAT THE...!
IT LANDED ON THAT HOUSE!
THE FOOD WILL BE PERFECTLY INTACT
DON'T WORRY WE CALCULATE FOR THE FORCE OF IMPACT
THIS IS BRUTAL
RUN!
THUD

ABORT THE DROPS, IMMEDIATELY!
NO REAL DAMAGE JUST LOST A LITTLE PAINT.
IT'S BEGUN ALREADY!
MISS FAZUN, WE'RE UNDER FIRE
BLUE SEAS, THE SMELL OF SALT IN THE AIR. AND
A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ERUPTING INTO A WAR ZONE.
I'M A LONG WAY FROM MARTINE.

I UNDERSTAND THE BASIS OF YOUR CLAIM
Is that so?
I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE IT.
.....
How could you not represent the majority of the citizenry of Lobnes !!!
You refuse to recognize me as the Territorial Representative.
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT
I REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE YOU. THAT'S ALL.
I SAID NO
I SHALL SAY NO MORE.

AH
JINTO
WE'VE GOT TO COME UP WITH A DIFFERENT APPROACH.
THIS IS GETTING US NOWHERE
.....
EKURYUA, I WILL TAKE NO MORE TRANSMISSIONS EXCEPT FROM THE ROY KUFALIA.
YES

I KNOW WHERE YOU ARE. WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?
Chapter 3
Evacuation Plan

AN ATTACK? FROM WHOM?
DID YOU INVESTI GATE?
WHAT IS IT?

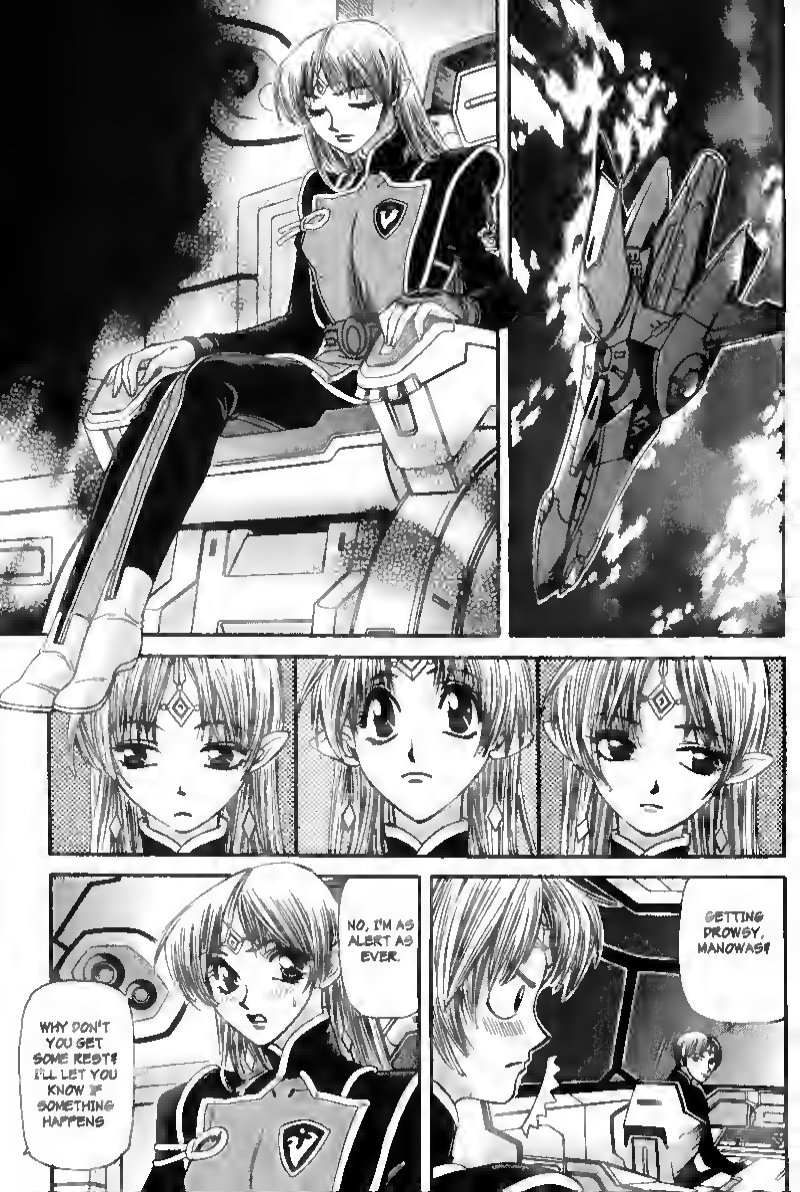
RONYU SEF SOSU WISHES
FOR THE ENTIRETY OF THE CONTROL SECTOR
THE FREE PEOPLE OF LOBNAS II... THEY WISH TO EMIGRATE
Is that all?
WITH THE GUARDS AND ALL THEIR FAMILIES
THIS INVOLVES MORE THAN TWENTY THOUSAND PEOPLE
I see
YOU SEE?
YOU HEARD ME SAY OVER TWENTY THOUSAND PEOPLE!
SURELY YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SADDLE ME WITH COORDINATING THIS EFFORT!
BUT WHERE WOULD THEY GO?! SURELY WE SHOULD DECIDE THAT FIRST!!

SEF SOSU! PLEASE CALM DOWN!
AN INTERNMENT CAMP!
WE'RE NOT THE PRISONERS HERE! IS THIS HOW YOU TREAT CITIZENS OF YOUR EMPIRE?!
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS
I HAVE TO REASSURE HIM.
YES, WELL...
RONYUGUVE TECHNICALLY MEANS INTERNMENT CAMP IN ASH, BUT IT'S MORE LIKE TEMPORARY HOUSING.
PLEASE DESCRIBE A RONYUGUVE.
HMM...
WILL WE HAVE A SAY IN THAT PERMANENT DESTINATION?
THE RONYUGUVE WILL BE A TEMPORARY RESIDENCE UNTIL IMPERIAL COMMAND CAN APPROVE A PERMANENT DESTINATION.
WE USE THEM PRIMARILY TO HOUSE SOLDIERS WHOSE SHIPS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN RENDERED HOMELESS. YOUR PEOPLE ARE NEW TO THE EMPIRE AND, THEREFORE, HOMELESS AS WELL.

WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE OPTIONS.
WE'LL DECIDE ON A HOME AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
THERE'S NO HURRY.
OF COURSE.
I SEE. AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO RESEARCH DESTINATIONS FROM THE CAMP.
ABSOLUTELY ANYWHERE IN THE EMPIRE.
...SO LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT APPROVES YOUR DECISION.


BUT BEFORE ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN, WE NEED YOUR HELP.
I DON'T WANT TO TELL HIM THAT THERE ISN'T ANOTHER TOSEI COMING TO TAKE HIS PLACE.
NOW FOR THE DELICATE PART.

HONESTLY, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE PREVENTING MASS CHAOS HERE.
I'D LIKE YOU TO DRAW UP AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN FOR THE NAMEN'S GOVERNANCE BEFORE YOU LEAVE
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR, TERRITORIAL REPRESENTATIVE PRIME MINISTER. THE TITLE DOESN'T MATTER.
IN CHOOSING THE NEXT SEF SOSU
THE NEXT SEF SOSU? A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR?


GETTING DROWSY, MANOWAR?
NO, I'M AS ALERT AS EVER.
WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME REST? I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF SOMETHING HAPPENS

IS MY PRESENCE DISRUPTIVE?
OF COURSE NOT
THIS JUST BRINGS BACK AN OLD MEMORY
SOMETHING TO DRINK?
HERE, MY QUARTERS. IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I'LL BE WORRIED EITHER WAY.
A TEAL NOM.
WITH LOFE, RIGHT?
AN OLD MEMORY?
YES.
FROM MY DAYS AS A TRADER.
THAT MAY BE TRUE.
EVEN WHEN YOU SLEPT?
OH, YES.
I SLEPT IN THE CAPTAIN'S CHAIR.
I BORROWED SOME MONEY FROM MY FATHER AND USED IT TO LEASE A SHIP OF MY OWN
AND I BALKED WHEN THE CREW TOLD ME TO GO TO MY QUARTERS FOR SOME REAL REST.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED? WHEN WE FINALLY GOT TO OUR DROP
I COULDN'T CONCENTRATE... AND RELEASED THE WHOLE MANIFEST INTO PWAS
I NEVER LEFT THE BRIDGE

IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE I WAS GRANTED MY COMMISSION AND OVER A YEAR SINCE MY FIRST BATTLE
THAT'S TRUE. YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN TO RELAX.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF THAN I WAS.
BUT I SLEEP JUST FINE IN MY QUARTERS
YOU HATE ME?! WELL, I CAN EASILY ARRANGE...
OH...
SEE, YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL WHEN YOU'RE BEING TEASED!
THAT CAN'T BE. I HATE CHILDREN.
I DO KNOW ...THAT YOU HAVE A TENDENCY TO MOTHER ME
NO, I'M IMPLYING THAT I HATE YOU.
ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I'M A CH...D?!
I NEVER WANTED TO BE STUCK UP HERE.
Sip

WHAT DO YOU DO, YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU'RE BY YOURSELF I MEAN
I NEVER ASKED TO BE KUPALIA
BUT NOW THAT I AM STUCK WITH IT, I WANT MY MISSION TO GO SMOOTHLY.
DEFINITELY, EVERY DAY IT'S MY PRIMARY MODE OF CORRESPONDENCE.
EVERY DAY?
I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED. FORGIVE ME.
THAT'S A VERY PERSONAL QUESTION
WELL, I ENJOY RECEIVING LETTERS MORE THAN WRITING THEM BUT I HAVE TO WRITE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE
WRITING CAN KEEP A RELATIONSHIP ALIVE.
DOESN'T THAT TIRE YOU OUT?
I WRITE LETTERS
TIME APART CAN TAKE ITS TOLL ON EVEN THE STRONGEST BONDS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. WRITING KEEPS YOU CLOSE
AND IF I KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ENOUGH PEOPLE I CAN AT LEAST ASSURE THAT MY FUNERAL WILL BE WELL ATTENDED
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
?

THAT'S TRUE
BUT IF I CAN'T HOLD THINGS TOGETHER UP HERE, I HOPE HER FUNERAL REALLY IS WELL ATTENDED
I DON'T KNOW WHAT JINTO'S GOING THROUGH DOWN THERE BUT I TRUST HE'S BETTER AT DEALING WITH NAHENUPS THAN ANY OF US
INCOMING MESSAGE FROM THE NAHEN
IT'S FEKTODAI SAZOIL LIN
PUT HIM ON SCREEN
WHAT'S WRONG JINTO?

DO YOU NEED ME TO COME DOWN THERE?
!!
OF COURSE JINTO. I
YOU LOOK A LITTLE WORN OUT.
NOT FOR TWELVE THOUSAND AT MOST, WE CAN ACCOMMODATE EIGHT THOUSAND
I SEE
AT LEAST THERE'S SOMETHING TO DO DOWN THERE

OH. AND WE'LL ALSO NEED TO PROVIDE THEM WITH DATA ON PLACES OPEN FOR SETTLEMENT
ALSO I'VE RECEIVED A PLAN OF SUCCESSION FROM THE SEF SOSU
WE'D LIKE TO KEEP THE TRANSFER OF POWER QUIET FOR THE TIME BEING
EIGHT!
CAN WE AT LEAST GET MORE SHIPS?
SEF SOSU MEIDEEN HAS BEEN METICULOUS ABOUT THE PLAN IT PROVIDES DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR AN ORDERLY TRANSITION
THIS WILL ENABLE US TO KEEP THINGS RUNNING SMOOTHLY AFTER MR MEIDEEN LEAVES
NOW WE HAVE TO MAKE THIS WORK

IF TIME ISN'T A FACTOR
..YOU CAN WAIT FOR A LARGER TRANSPORT SHIP?
I'LL HAVE TO DRAW UP A NEW PRIORITY LIST!
YOU COULD HAVE LET US KNOW YOU ONLY HAD ROOM FOR EIGHT THOUSAND
DEPUTY

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT
YOU COULD HAVE CRAMMED AS MANY OF US AS YOU COULD INTO THE CARGO BAYS TO KEEP DOWN THE COST
AND YET YOU STILL CALLED FOR MORE SHIPS
WE ALREADY HAVE TWO SHIPS IN ORBIT THE ONES THAT CARRIED THE PROVISIONS HERE
AND FROM THE LABULE'S PERSPECTIVE
IT WOULD BE CHEAPER TO USE JUST THOSE TWO SHIPS
I APPRECIATE YOUR HONESTY YOUR EXCELLENCY
YOU ARE VALUED SUBJECTS OF THE EMPIRE
IF THE ADMINISTRATION DECLINES YOUR GENEROSITY, MIGHT WE BE ABLE TO TAKE THEIR PLACE?
WE NEVER SAID WE WOULD REFUSE IT!
AND WE'VE NO INTENTION OF TAKING YOU PEOPLE WITH US!!
STOP
THIS IS MY FIRST CHANCE TO STATE MY POSITION, SO LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR.
THE WESTERN DETENTION SECTOR HEREBY SUBMITS ITS REQUEST TO LEAVE THE LOBNAS SYSTEM

YOU ARE CRIMINALS! YOU DARE ASK FOR FREEDOM!
HAVE YOU NO REMORSE FOR YOUR VICTIMS?!!
THIS IS INSANITY!
ANOTHER COMPLICATION!
YOU APPROVE OF THIS, COUNT! SETTING CRIMINALS FREE?!
TO THIS FORSAKEN PLACE!!
IF WE WERE CAPABLE OF REMORSE WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SHIPPED HERE!
YOU ARE WILLING TO FLOOD YOUR PRECIOUS EMPIRE WITH CRIMINALS?!
DOES THE EMPIRE HAVE NO PENAL CODE?
THAT'S RIGHT I CAN'T WAIT TO GET OFF THIS ROCK.
THEY WEREN'T SENTENCED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE EMPIRE.
SO ...
THEY HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO LEAVE AS YOU DO.
HOW SEVERE?!
IT DOES INDEED HAVE A PENAL CODE.
AND THE PENALTIES FOR BREAKING THE LAW ARE QUITE SEVERE.

LALA...
THAT'S AN AWFUL THING TO SAY
ANY AND ALL CRIMES ARE PUNISHABLE BY DEATH
!!!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO WITHDRAW YOUR REQUEST?
NO!
THING'S HERE WILL ONLY GET WORSE!
WE FULLY INTEND TO STAY HERE AND CREATE AN IDEAL SOCIETY
ALONGSIDE ANGUSSON! BEST OF LUCK, DOKUFU
MISS SHANGAI WE'D LIKE VERY MUCH FOR YOU TO STAY
WHY?
ONCE WE LEAVE, YOU'LL BE SEF SOSU
THAT'S ONE LESS HITCH IN YOUR PLAN
YES, BUT THE FUTURE LIES WITH THE WOMEN.
WE'LL NEED YOU TO BE MOTHERS TO OUR CHILDREN!

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE YOUR BABY MACHINES!
AND WITH ANGUSSON'S GOONS HERE, NO WAY IN HELL!
!!!
BUT IF THE WOMEN ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE, WHAT KIND OF FUTURE CAN THIS PLANET HAVE?
I DON'T KNOW, AND I DON'T CARE!
FOR ME, THIS PLANET NEVER HAD A FUTURE!
WELL
WE COULD ALWAYS PROVIDE YOU WITH ARTIFICIAL BIRTH TECHNOLOGY
WHAT?
HOW CAN THEY NOT SEE THE VALUE IN THAT?
WELL, PERHAPS AS A LAST RESORT
WE JUST WANT TO GET OUT! IS THAT CLEAR?

.....
WE SHOULD BE THE FIRST PRIORITY!
QUITE CLEAR. BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND OUR PRIORITIES
WE WERE BROUGHT HERE AGAINST OUR WILLS!
FIRST OUR FAMILIES, THEN THE STAFF AND LASTLY YOUR PEOPLE
THAT'S THE MOST ABSURD THING I'VE EVER HEARD!
I WISH THERE WAS A MORE EXPERIENCED TOSEL AVAILABLE.
I'D LET HIM SORT OUT THIS MESS
WHAT CAN I DO?
THIS IS POINTLESS!
YOU
WE SHOULD DISCUSS THIS BILATERALLY, JUST US
?
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT

THAT'S RIGHT!
AND I'M THE GOVERNMENT!
YOUR ATTEMPT TO EMPLOY YOUR FEMALE CHARMS HAS FAILED!

BUT...
YOU MUST MEET TWO CONDITIONS
OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM BACH AND SANCTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

WHY ME
YOU'RE GAY, RIGHT?

FEMININE CHARMS?!
CLEARLY THE COUNT IS GAY

YOU SHALL STOP THIS AT ONCE!!

YOU DO REALIZE THAT YOU'RE NOT A POPULAR MAN!
THAT'S NO CONCERN OF MINE!
OF COURSE NOT! I'M A WARDEN!

YOU HEAR THAT, MISS SHANGALI?
YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED IF HER HIGHNESS IS GAY!
PLEASE, CALM YOURSELVES
I WANT TO MAKE THIS WORK AS MUCH AS YOU DO. BUT THE ABH HAVE NO INTENTION OF ALTERING THE EXISTING GOVERNMENTAL FRAMEWORK
REALIZE THIS-- I'M ONLY THE ROY KUFALIA, SO FORGING A SEPARATE DEAL WITH ME IS OUT OF THE QUESTION
ENOUGH INSULTS
AH, WELL.
UNLESS IT'S TRUE?
THE KUFALIA IS ROYALTY AND YOU SLANDERED HER?!
SLANDERING ROYALTY CONSTITUTES SEDITION!
THAT FALLS UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE SEIMEI SOSU
THEN OUR FAMILIES WILL BE THE FIRST PRIORITY
LET'S GET BACK ON TOPIC
THE ISSUE OF PRIORITIES

VERY WELL, MR. DIRECTOR!
I KNEW YOU COULD BE REASONABLE!
YOUR PEOPLE CAN LEAVE BEFORE ME.
I'M STAYING UNTIL THE BITTER END.
THEN...
HANG ON! IF THE DIRECTOR LEAVES--
NO PROBLEM. THE WESTERN SECTOR HAS THE SMALLEST POPULATION.
HOW MANY?
THE NUMBERS WILL BE HIGHER!
OBVIOUSLY WE'LL NEED TO REVISE THE PLAN.
COULDN'T BE MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND.
SFSS
SFSS
SFSS
SFSS

ゴゴゴ

Egmont System Fourth Fleet (Byuru Gona) the Graga Sankau
NEREIS, ARE YOU STILL ASLEEP?
I WASN'T SLEEPING, NEFEE.
JUST INDULGING IN THE BEAUTY OF OUR CULTURAL TREASURES ON THE FROKRAJU.
AH YES SO MUCH MORE APPEALING THAN THE UGLINESS OF THE REAL WORLD
I JUST RECEIVED THE LATEST REPORT.
THOUGH IT WAS PRESENTED TO ME AS BAD NEWS...
I'M SURE YOU'LL TAKE IT AS GOOD.
ANY GOOD NEWS?
AN ENEMY FLEET HAS ENTERED THE BOLKYUTON RYUREEMAL SORD.
IT'S HEADED TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE LASHU ELKFAL SORD.

WHAT A PITY SINCE APTIC I'VE BEEN LONGING TO DEFEND OUR CONQUEST
HOWEVER THE OPPORTUNITY HASN'T PRESENTED ITSELF
YOU'RE STILL SPOILING FOR A FIGHT?!
REALLY? AND THEY DIDN'T SURROUND US?
CLEARLY THE ENEMY LACKS YOUR FOOL-HEADED INABILITY TO DISCERN ATTACK POSTURES.
WHAT WILL THE CREW THINK?!
IN MY MEMOIRS
I'LL WRITE "WE PREPARED TO EXTIRPATE THE ENEMY."
THEY'LL THINK WHAT THEY THINK AS WILL THE ENEMY
WHAT I SAY IS TRUE! IF THEY CHOSE TO SURROUND US, WE'D HAVE HAD AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY TO FLEX OUR MUSCLES
WHY WOULD YOU WRITE THAT?
IT WOULD FILL ANY SURVIVORS WITH IMMENSE PRIDE
THEY WILL HAVE FOUGHT FOR THEIR LIVES THEY'LL BE PROUD OF THEIR ROLES!
THAT'S RIGHT
ISN'T IT CLEAR?
APPARENTLY YOU LACK MY PERSPICACITY
IS THAT SO?

SHALL WE PURSUE THEM?
NO. JUST HAVE THE MAIN FLEET DESTROY THEM.
IF WE CHASE THEM, WE'LL LOOK LIKE BULLIES
LET'S HURRY AHEAD.
THERE'S NO WORTHY OBSTACLE FOR US HERE. BUT IF WE SEND THE OTHER FLEETS TO ENGAGE THEM...
.....
SO YOU WANT TO RACE ALL OF THE OTHER SHIPS TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIFT, ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE EMPIRE?
NATURALLY THE RACE ITSELF WOULD BE WORTHY OF OUR ATTENTION
HMM? DO YOU THINK THE CREW WILL THINK OF THAT. NEFEES THE HONOR OF THE BYURU GONA IS FOREMOST ON MY MIND

Atoria System- Operation Hunter First Fleet the Graga Lashkau
BYURU KASNA BREG
IF THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT..
THE ENEMY FLEET HAS RUN THE FRONTLINE AT LASHU ELKFAL AND IS HEADING TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE SYSTEM.
THEY ARE PROCEEDING VERY SLOWLY.
Chapter 4
The Hunters
BREAKASH
THEY ARE MOST LIKELY THE DEFENSE LINE FOR ISAZU SQUADRONS ATTACHED
IN ALL LIKELI-HOOD..
THEY WANT TO REGROUP WITH..
..THE MAIN FLEET.
THAT'S MOST LIKELY
BUT IS IT TRUE?
Admiral (Frode) Spoor Aron Sekpado Letopanyu, Duchess Peneju
NE-LETOPAN

THEY COULD RUN OFF TO A NAHEN AND LIVE FREE
UNLIKE US, THEY CAN'T STAND THE DEEP REACHES OF SPACE
WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?
I'D HAVE GUESSED
THAT THEY WOULD WANT TO GET AWAY FROM THEIR FLEET
HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED EVERYTHING WE NEEDED TO?
OUR ORDERS ARE TO MONITOR THE ENEMY FLEET'S ESCAPE.
AND TO PATROL THE FRONTLINES HOWEVER—
I KNOW, I KNOW
THERE'S NOTHING TO DEFEND THEM AGAINST.
IS KUFAZET FREG AT AN END?
DON'T LOOK TOO HAPPY WASS KASALE!
THIS IS ONE DAY SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO RUIN!
IT WOULD SEEM SO
トキ
ソ
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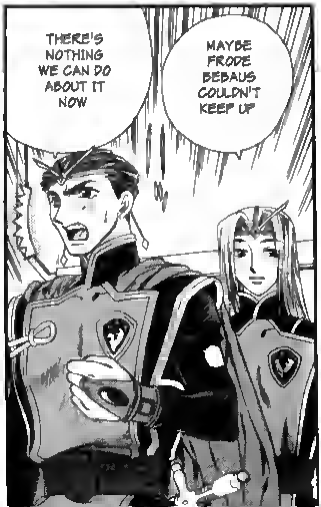
Near Melmu
Gate 552,
Operation Hunter
21st Fleet Grega
Suurubilish
BYURU
MATROKYUTONA
BY THE STARS! HOW COULD THE BYURU GONA LET THE ENEMY SLIP PAST THEM?!
Frode Trife Bolj Yuydale Remsale
ADMIRAL TRIFE BOLJ YUYDALE REMSALE

WHY WOULDN'T THEY AT LEAST TRY TO INTERCEPT THEM?
HMM

NOTHING COULD BE GAINED BY PURSUING THEM.
WHAT THE DEVIL IS FRODE BEBAUS THINKING?!
HIS DECISION WAS TACTICALLY CORRECT


THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW
MAYBE FRODE BEBAUS COULDN'T KEEP UP

BUT NOW IT'S UP TO US TO FACE THESE DEMONS
IF THEY HAD WIPED OUT THE ENEMY, KUFAZET BREG WOULD BE COMPLETE.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT RIGHT!

IT'S HIGHLY PROBABLE OUR FIREPOWER EXCEEDS THEIRS CONSIDERABLY
A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THEIR SHIPS ARE PROBABLY ISAZU

THE ENEMY HAS FORTY SQUADRONS. WE HAVE FORTY-THREE.
THAT'S HARDLY AN OVERWHELMING ADVANTAGE!

DEPLOY OUR FORCES! WE WILL ERADICATE THE LOT OF THEM!!
HOW DOES ONE BECOME A LABILE COMMANDER ANYWAY?

THAT'S MY CHOICE? WAIT FOR DATA, OR ENGAGE THE ENEMY?
OF COURSE! BUT IT ALL COMES DOWN TO PROBABILITY.
WE SHOULD WAIT FOR A REPORT FROM FRODE SPOOR

YOU'RE SUSPENDING THE EVACUATION!
YES

SO THE OPERATION IS CURRENTLY -
THE REMNANTS OF THE ENEMY FLEET MAY BE PASSING THIS WAY
THIS IS A BIG MISTAKE!!
THEY MAY NOT COME TO LOSNAS, BUT WE DON'T WANT TO RISK IT

MOST OF THE STAFF'S FAMILIES HAVE ALREADY GONE!
YOU CAN'T!
IF WE STOP NOW... WE RISK DIVIDING THOSE FAMILIES FOREVER!
WHY DID YOU MEDDLE IN THE FIRST PLACE IF YOU WERE JUST GOING TO THROW US TO THE WOLVES?
ガタ!

WE COULD FALL BACK INTO THE HANDS OF THE UNITED MANKIND
WHAT GUARANTEES DO WE HAVE? YOU SAY IT'S TEMPORARY. BUT WHAT WOULD KEEP YOU FROM ABANDONING THIS PLACE ENTIRELY?
THE SUSPENSION IS TEMPORARY. WE'LL RESUME SOON
FOR SOME, THAT IS A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH!
!!
...WILL BE LIVING ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF A HOSTILE BORDER!
AND IF THAT HAPPENS, MY STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?
Chito's Parents

I DON'T WANT TO STOP YOU FROM ANSWERING YOUR DUTY
...BUT YOU SHOULD COMPLETE YOUR MISSION HERE FIRST!
PERHAPS I CAN
MAYBE I...
WE'LL DO OUR BEST. BUT YOU KNOW WE HAVE LIMITED SPACE ON THE ISAZU
WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FIT EVERYONE...
AND US AS WELL!
DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT TAKING ALL OF US WITH YOU.
EXCUSES!
YOU HAVE A DUTY TO TAKE US WITH YOU!
HE'S DESPERATE...
SCARED OF SOMETHING

Lobnas II two months after the Basrod's arrival
In response to the Roy Kufaltas request, Fleet Command has sent a topia, an Abh orbital station, to assist in the evacuation
Knowing the journey will be a long one, Lafiel has assisted the émigrés in preparation for their long trek across Abh territory
The topia will be their home
With the enemy fleet nearing, Lafiel had planned to halt operations...
but in light of heartfelt assertions from the Semsi Sosu, she allowed the evacuation to resume
Fleet Command also dispatched an isazu vat, a ship used to transport military personnel
The operation will take three more days

JINTO, IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER.
HHHP...

WHAT A SIGHT!
I WISH I COULD SHARE IT WITH LAFIEL.
FOUR DAYS 'TILL THERE'S A NEW SEF SOSU.
IN THE MEANTIME, MORE MEETINGS.
HOO

YES!
BEEP
WHY NOW?!

CLICK
COMING THROUGH!
WHOOOOO!
IT'S FULLY FUELED! RAM THE GATE!
THE EASTERN SECTOR HAS ATTACKED THE CENTRAL SECTOR

THE GUARDS ARE STILL ARMED?
OF COURSE THEY'RE HITTING BACK HARD
SO THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, RIGHT?
THE PRISONERS HAVE HOMEMADE WEAPONS
NO. THEY'VE BEEN VERY WELL ARMED
THERE MUST BE A TRAITOR AMONG US!!
SOMEONE WHO CHOSE TO STAY MUST HAVE GIVEN ANGUSSON WEAPONS FROM OUR ARSENAL
WHY WOULD SOMEONE DO THAT?
ONE REASON
A MISPLACED ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED MANKIND
?
BUT THEY WERE PRISONERS OF THE UNITED MANKIND
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

YOU'RE A PRISONER! YOU TELL ME WHAT ANGUSSON IS THINKING!
I MAY BE IN CHARGE, BUT I AM NOT OMNISCIENT!
YOU'RE THE ONE IN CHARGE HERE!!
I'M NOT SURE
THEN STOP IT!
BRING THIS REBELLION TO AN END!!
NATURALLY, WE'LL ASSIST IN ANY WAY WE CAN
THAT MAN IS A MONSTER, NOT A PRISONER!
HAVE YOU CONTACTED THE TOPIA?
NO, NOT YET
WE'LL ALERT THEM OF THE SITUATION.
I'M NOT SURE WE KNOW HOW OUR GARISHU DOESN'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE FIGHTING BATTLES ON THE SURFACE
THEN YOU'RE USELESS!

YOU'RE KIDDING ME!!
WITHOUT THE CENTRAL SECTOR, ANGUSSON'S GROUP WILL WALK STRAIGHT THROUGH TO THE WESTERN SECTOR!
Yeap
REPORT
REQUEST DENIED
THERE ARE PLENTY OF ROCKS TO CRAWL UNDER!
THE CENTRAL SECTOR IS QUITE WIDE.
Back to your sector!
Yes of course
COULD HE BE RIGHT?
ARE WE IN THAT MUCH DANGER?

DOKUFU!
HE'S BEEN PART OF THIS FROM THE BEGINNING!
GATE 29 HAS BEEN BREACHED!
Shoot 'em
Keep movin'
Go! Go! Go!
THERE'S NO REASON TO HOLD THE SECOND WALL! REGROUP!
TOMASOF! WE'RE UNDER ASSAULT!
PUT AS MUCH STRENGTH AS YOU CAN INTO THE THIRD WALL. ONCE IT'S SECURE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO PUSH THE INVADERS BACK!
HE MUST BE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD
Hey

EXCELLENCY
CAN WE BOARD THE SHUTTLES FROM THE WESTERN SECTOR?
IF THERE IS A PORT AND SOME SORT OF WATER TRANSPORT TO GET OUT TO THE SHIP
OUR RUSGOMEA CAN LAND ON ANY WATER SURFACE, BUT WE'LL NEED TO GET OUT TO THEM.
WE CAN USE PATROL BOATS
THEY'RE NOT PRETTY, BUT THEY WORK.
BRING YOUR SHIPS AS CLOSE TO SHORE AS POSSIBLE!
.....
UNDERSTOOD
SO, WILL WE WOMEN HAVE PRIORITY NOW?
THEIR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO KEEP THE WOMEN FROM LEAVING
ONCE YOU'RE GONE, THE ATTACK WILL LOSE ITS MOMENTUM.
SO YES! THE WOMEN WILL HAVE PRIORITY
THANK YOU!
Beep

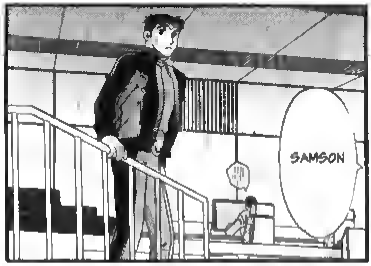
ROY KUFALIA.
I'M IMPRESSED!
WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE TIME
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE PORT NOW.

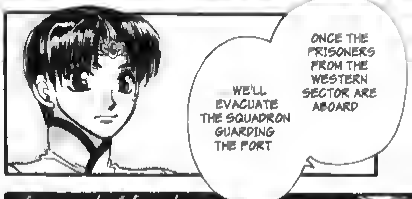
The next night
THE FIRST SHIP HASN'T RETURNED YET.
I SEE
IT HAS JUST FINISHED ITS FIRST RUN.
IT SHOULD RE-ENTER THE ATMOSPHERE IN THIRTY MINUTES.
DENIED! THAT WALL IS OUR LAST LINE OF DEFENSE!
THEIR PLAN WAS TO CUT THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTOR OFF FROM THE WESTERN SECTOR!

FOR THE NEXT SIXTY MINUTES
I NEED YOU TO DEFEND THE ROAD IS WITH YOUR LIVES!
AFTER THAT WE'LL REGROUP INTO TWO SQUADRONS.. ONE TO DEFEND THE FIRST WALL, THE OTHER THE FORT

OF COURSE THAT WAS MY INTENTION
YOUR EXCELLENCY, WILL YOU ALLOW STAFF TO LEAVE BY USING ONLY THEIR ID NUMBERS AS IDENTIFICATION?

TOMASOF!


SAMSON


ONCE THE PRISONERS FROM THE WESTERN SECTOR ARE ABOARD
WE'LL EVACUATE THE SQUADRON GUARDING THE FORT

I NEED YOU TO TAKE THE REST OF THE CREW BACK TO THE BASROIL..
AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

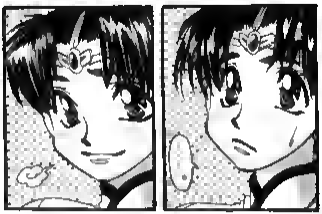
THAT'S TRUE, BUT, UM, I CAN'T LEAVE BEHIND
...OUR OFFICIAL RECORDS!
...IT WILL NEED BOTH THE FEKTODAI SKEM AND ITS SASHU SKEL
CONSIDER THE BASROIL! ONCE IT REACHES FWAS...
I'M HERE TO PROTECT YOU I CAN'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND
I'M GOING WITH THE SEF SOSU TO THE WESTERN SECTOR TO HELP OUT WITH THE EVACUATION
I'M NOT PLAYING A HERO!
YOU SHOULD RETURN TO THE BASROIL WITH YOUR CREW!
EXCELLENCY! DON'T BE FOOLISH!
THIS IS NO TIME TO PLAY THE HERO!
WE MIGHT EVEN HAVE TO SUSPEND THE EVACUATION IN THE MIDDLE
HONESTLY, THAT'S A DECISION THAT SHOULD BE MADE HERE, NOT IN ORBIT.
BEFORE I GO, I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE WHO WANTS OUT GETS OUT.
THAT DOESN'T SEEM TOO LIKELY RIGHT NOW.

THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT WE CALL PLAYING THE HERO!
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, MY YOUNG FRIEND
HA HA HA HA!
TO EVACUATE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE RIGHT?

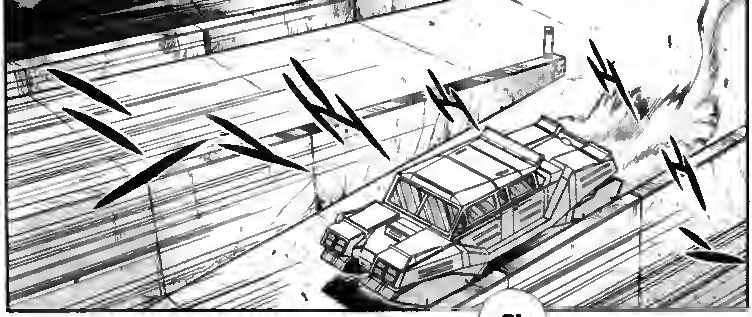
BUT
I'M HONORED YOU'LL BE HERE TO HELP US OUT
NO MATTER.

NO NEED FOR FEIA TO RAIN DOWN HER WRATH ON YOU
I CAN TELL HER MYSELF
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT

I'M A COWARD AT HEART AND HAVE HEARD MANY STORIES OF VENGEFUL ASRIELS
WON'T THE MANOWAS BE UPSET IF I LEAVE YOU DOWN HERE?



SHE WILL MOST LIKELY BE UPSET
BUT SHE'LL ULTIMATELY UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS RIGHT
YOU KNOW PEIA BETTER
THAN ANYONE ELSE
FORGIVE ME WHEN I STILL THINK OF YOU AS A BOY.
YOU HAVE CERTAINLY GROWN UP
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
YOU TOO, SAMSON



?!
YOU JUST MADE A WRONG TURN!
GO BACK THE OTHER WAY!
HEY!

?!!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU!
I SAID BRING THE DIRECTOR!
I'M ALWAYS SOMEBODY'S LUGGAGE.
Chapter 5
Abh Hell
BAL GEF
HE WANTED TO COME! I COULDN'T STOP HIM!
STOP YELLING AT ME!
DRUGS ARE PROHIBITED UNDER THE UNITED MANKIND
BUT THE PRISONERS HERE ARE RESOURCEFUL, AND HAVE CREATED ALKAIK FROM NATIVE PLANTS
AND SOME GUARDS WERE DABBLING IN THE DRUG TRADE!
NOT WHO, WHAT A NARCOTIC MANUFACTURED ONLY HERE ON LOBNAS II
WHO'S ALKAIK?
IT'S ALKAIK
YOUR DRIVER'S WORKING FOR THEM!

WE ALREADY KNEW THAT ONCE WE LEFT, THE ALKAIDES WOULD OVERRUN THIS PLANET WITHIN WEEKS
IT SEEMS SO!
WE KNEW THIS PLANET WOULD BECOME A LIVING HELL.
ANGUSSON
AND HE WANTED TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM IT
AN ADDED BONUS
WE'VE GOT OUR HOSTAGE, AND ONE TO SPARE.
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND! THE EMPIRE IS POWERFUL AND MERCILESS!
I WON'T DO THAT.
WE CAN'T KEEP ONE OF THEIR NOBLEMEN HOSTAGE!
IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, THEN LET HIS EXCELLENCY GO!
YOU SHOULD LET ME GO TOO, BUT I KNOW YOU WON'T
TRUE
BUT IF YOU CALL OFF THE EVACUATION, WE MIGHT CONSIDER IT.
DO YOU...
...LIKE KIDS?

WITH THE WOMEN GONE, THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE
GOOD!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GOOD?!
CUT IT OUT!
THAT'S WHY I WANT NEW ONES.
I LOVE CHILDREN TOO I HAVE FIVE SCATTERED ABOUT SOMEWHERE, BUT I'M NOT ALLOWED TO SEE THEM
WHAT ARE YOU...?
YES I LOVE CHILDREN WHY DOES THAT MATTER?
THOSE YOU KILLED HAD FAMILIES TOO! IF YOU HADN'T DESTROYED THOSE FAMILIES
YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED YOUR OWN!
ANGUSSON! CALM DOWN!
DIRECTOR SURELY YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HIS DREAM OF HAVING A FAMILY!
THEN
...STOP HER FROM LEAVING!
YOU SHOULD BE DISCUSSING THIS WITH SHANGAI!
WE'RE DONE HEARING YOU PREACH
LET'S TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE.

NOT A CHANCE!
SO YOU STILL WON'T CANCEL THE EMIGRATION
EXCELLENCY, WE'VE NO INTENTION OF ACCEPTING SUCH AN OFFER
IS THAT CLEAR?
AS I SAID, WE'D BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH ARTIFICIAL BIRTH TECHNOLOGY.
WHAT?
ME?!
I'LL GO AHEAD AND KILL HIM.
OKAY, IF YOU WON'T CANCEL IT...
WE'LL RISK EVERYTHING FOR OUR CHANCE TO HAVE CHILDREN
MAKE YOUR CHOICE!
WHAT COULD BE WORSE THAN LOSING ONE'S FUTURE!
IT WOULD ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE FOR YOU!!
COME NOW! PEOPLE GO MISSING ALL THE TIME!
WHAT PURPOSE WOULD THAT SERVE!
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO AVOID AN INCIDENT WITH THE EMPIRE?

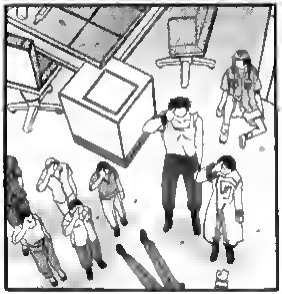
YOU ARE STERILE, DOKUFU!
THEN I'VE ALREADY LOST
SNUFF THIS WRETCH!
THIS NOBLE WRETCH
YOU'RE RIGHT KILLING A NOBLE IS TOO DANGEROUS
HOWEVER
I FEEL PERFECTLY SAFE BLASTING A HOLE OR TWO IN THIS ONE!
SO YOU KILL ME! THEN WHAT?
THEN I'LL TAKE YOUR PLACE AS SEF SOSU
HMPH
I ASSUME YOU PUT TOMASOF AT THE TOP OF THAT LIST
IMPOSSIBLE I'VE ALREADY GIVEN THE AMBASSADOR AN OFFICIAL PLAN OF SUCCESSION
I HAVE THE ALKAIK, AND HE DOES WHAT I SAY
YOU LIE!!
I'LL GIVE YOU FIVE SECONDS
CALL OFF THE EVACUATION, AND I WON'T PULL THIS TRIGGER
5

TIME'S UP!!
1
2
3
4
!
!!

THIS MAN...
NO, HE'S NOBILITY
PROBABLY NEVER SEEN A CORPSE IN HIS LIFE
IS HE REALLY A SOLDIER?
UHH-HHH.
OH—AH
OH
AND YOU KILLED HIM!
...THOUGHT ONLY OF THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE
HE WAS HONORABLE
SO IN GOOD CONSCIENCE, YOU CAN'T JUDGE ME
I'M SURE YOU'VE KILLED FAR BETTER MEN THAN I.
HEY! WAR IS WAR MR. NOBLEMAN
WE GET TOMASOF
WHAT NOW?
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
THAT MAY BE TRUE. BUT...

STOP
I WAS TRICKING MEIDEEN, NOT YOU, YOU DOLT.
I NEEDED HIM TO DIE WITH DOUBT IN HIS HEART... THINKING HE HAD FAILED
YOU TRICKED ME!!

OH, COME ON.
I WAS BLUFFING.
A MAN LIKE TOMASOF WOULD NEVER TOUCH ALKAIDE
THERE'S NO WAY TO GET TO HIM.



MEN A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE DEAD
HOWEVER MUCH WE HATED HIM HE WAS NO COWARD
YOU'RE A DESPICABLE RUNT, DOKUPU!

NO. WE DO NOT WANT THE WRATH OF THE EMPIRE COMING DOWN ON US
WE'LL HAVE TO SEND THE LITTLE NOBLEMAN HOME.
SO, WE HAVE ONE HOSTAGE LEFT

I'M THE ROY KUFALIA I DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY
IF I THREATENED TO DISEMBOWEL YOU...
...YOU'D STOP THE EMIGRATION RIGHT?
Ugh, make him stop!
THEN MAKE IT BETTER!
I CAN'T LET THE SITUATION GET ANY WORSE
FEIA KUFALIA, OF COURSE
WE'RE IN TROUBLE
WHO DOES HAVE THE AUTHORITY?!
I'M THE ROY KUFALIA. I DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY
SURELY YOU COULD NOW RECOGNIZE ME AS THE SEF SOSU.
RIGHT AWAY
CALL HER UP, DOKUFU...
OR I'LL SNAP YOUR PUNY SPINE!
WITH HIM AS A HOSTAGE.
WELL THEN! LET'S THREATEN HER...
...RATHER THAN STIR THINGS UP WITH THE ABH
HE MIGHT AS WELL JUST KILL ME...
MAYBE DELUDED
PATHETIC AND WEAK

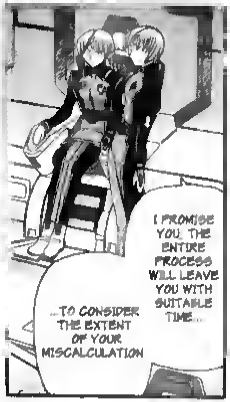
THIS ISN'T RIGHT
JINTO SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED AT THE WESTERN SECTOR BY NOW
WHY HASN'T HE CONTACTED US?
MANOWAS
IT'S BEING ROUTED THROUGH KINYUL LIN'S CLYUNG
PUT IT ONSCREEN
MANOWAS
THERE'S A TRANSMISSION FROM THE NEW SEIMEI SOSU
DISREGARD IT
Please accept my transmiss
MANOWAS
HE CLAIMS TO BE THE SEIMEI SOSU.
LET ME SEE HIM.
WHO IS THIS?
THAT'S NOT JINTO!

EXPLAIN YOURSELF
IS HE ALIVE?
OH, JINTO
YOUR DEMANDS ARE REFUSED!

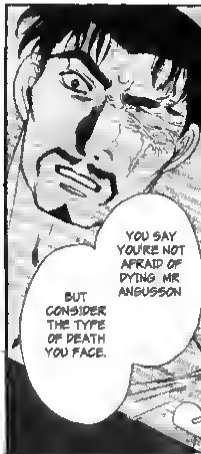
AND YOU SHALL RETURN HIM TO US AT ONCE!
?!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONE IN CHARGE!
MANOWAR, I'VE ANALYZED THAT VOICEPRINT
IT'S ANGUSSON, FROM THE EASTERN SECTOR.
YOU ARE SPEAKING OF AN ABH NOBLE!!

THUD
SHOVE
H.....
I'LL CHOKE THE LIFE OUT OF THEM!
I'LL SHOW THESE MONSTERS HOW THE KARSAL GULLAK TAKE THEIR REVENGE!
YOU...
I NEED TO GET DOWN THERE!
KILL YOUR
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'D BE...
MERCI-FUL
PERHAPS I CAN CLARIFY, MR. ANGUSSON

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WE ABH LIVE FOR VENGEANCE
BY THE INHERENT LAWS OF OUR CULTURE, WE INTEND FOR THE KILLERS OF ABH
...TO SUFFER IN THE MOST GRUESOME OF WAYS


I PROMISE YOU, THE ENTIRE PROCESS WILL LEAVE YOU WITH SUITABLE TIME...
...TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT OF YOUR MISCALCULATION

YOU EXPECT YOUR KRANRAJ TO BE QUICK AND MERCIFUL
THAT EXPECTATION IS VERY MUCH IN ERROR


YOU SAY YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF DYING MR ANGUSSON
BUT CONSIDER THE TYPE OF DEATH YOU FACE.

..BUT WE DO BELIEVE IN HELL.
WE ASH HAVE NO TRUE RELIGION..
YOU WON'T GET IT OF COURSE
ONCE YOU'VE LEARNED HOW SERIOUSLY WE ASH TAKE REVENSE
YOU WILL BEG FOR DEATH... AND THEN BEG SOME MORE
YOU WILL FIND YOUR FIRE AND BRIMSTONE.
YOU'LL FIND IT IN THE VENGEANCE OF THE ASH
THE VENGEFUL SPIRIT OF THE ANCIENT EMPEROR DOUGNAA HAS MELDED WITH DARK SCIENCE..
..AND CREATED A HORROR BEYOND IMAGINING AND YOU WILL KNOW IT INTIMATELY
IT ONLY SEEMS THAT WAY. BUT OUR REPUTATION FOR REVENGE HAS PROTECTED MY PEOPLE.
EVEN NOW, IN MY YOUTH, I CAN SAY I OWE MY LIFE TO IT
A REPUTATION FOR REVENGE CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THE THICKEST ARMOR

I TRUST THE SAME WILL BE TRUE THIS TIME, MR DOKUFU.
For both our sakes
I SEE
THEN YOU'D BETTER HOPE YOU DIE BEFORE I GET TO YOU
WHAT A SHAME. LET US KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND

ABRIELS NEVER CRY
I AM AN ABRIEL
JINTO
BUT JINTO
IF I WEREN'T AN ABRIEL

MANOWAS
INCOMING TRANSMISSION FROM THE LWEYSES
IT'S PERTOPAI SKEIN SAMSON
PUT HIM THROUGH
I'm sorry, Manowas.
I should have stayed with him!
IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT
IT'S HIS FOR GETTING CAPTURED AND MINE FOR LEAVING HIM BEHIND
RETURN TO THE SHIP
!
.....

The risk will be my own!!
STOP SAYING THAT HE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
SAMSON BOLGE TILSAL TILUSE!
YOU SHALL BE SILENT!
IT'S NOT YOUR PLACE TO FIX MY MISTAKES!
MANOWAS INCOMING TRANSMISSION FROM THE MELKUTE.
IT'S SALAL SABORT
WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

CHANNEL YOUR EFFORTS INTO A SMOOTH EVACUATION
AND IF IT FAILS?
AND PLEASE TELL ME HE'S ALIVE
WHO IS THE NEXT SEF SOSU?
IT IS
WE'LL HAVE TO PUT RINYUL LIN OUT OF OUR MINDS FOR NOW
I NEED TO TALK TO HIM!
HIS INAUGURATION WILL HAVE TO WAIT
IT'S A MAN BY THE NAME OF TOMASOF
CAN YOU DO THAT
FEIA?

I LET HIM DIE.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
STOP THIS MADNESS AND SEND HIM BACK!
WE'LL SPEND OUR LIVES BURNING IN ASH HELL!
WEREN'T AN ABRIEL.
IF I
NO! I'M GOING TO PUT AN END TO THIS
THERE'S NOTHING TO GAIN BY FIGHTING!
A REAL MAN STANDS BEHIND HIS ACTIONS!
IT IS CLEAR THAT FORCE IS THE ONLY ANSWER!
WE MUST USE OUR STRENGTH TO RESCUE OUR WOMEN FROM THEIR OPPRESSION!

NO! I'LL DENY IT! IT'S NOT TRUE!
YOU'LL GO TO THEIR HAND-BUILT HELL!
YOU WOULDN'T! THAT'S NOT FAIR!
IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE REAL HELL.
AND I'M SURE THE ASH WILL HEAR YOUR EXCUSES!!
WELL, YOU COULD ALWAYS JOIN US NOW!
GROW SOME BALLS, DOKUPU!
IF YOU ORDER THEM TO STOP, I'LL BREAK HIS NECK.
THEN I'LL TELL THE ASH THAT YOU DID IT!
!!!

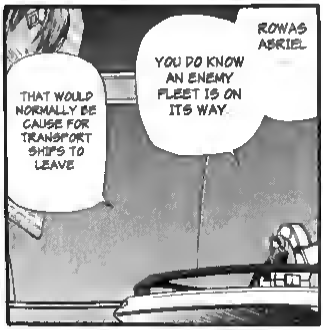
GRAHALEL, THE SYURU KASNA BREG HAS ENTERED THE LOBNAS SORD
ESTIMATING 2100 GEDRELS TO THE ENEMY FLEET.
THE ENEMY IS HEADED IN OUR DIRECTION
IT'LL BE ANOTHER TWENTY-FOUR HOURS BEFORE WE'RE IN CONTACT RANGE.
AS YOU ALL ARE PAINFULLY AWARE
WE ARE NOT TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY EVEN IF ATTACKED
NATURALLY. WE'RE OUT HERE ON RECONNAISSANCE ONLY.
Chief of Staff, Captain Kufadis Wef Espiel Sespy
WASS KASAIL SHUWAS KUFADIS WEF ESPIEL SESPY
INCOMING GONA!
KARSAL GULULAK
?!
SHE ACTUALLY SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING THIS ASSIGNMENT!
IF ATTACKED, WE PRETEND TO ENTER ATTACK FORMATION AND THEN RUN AWAY--
I MEAN... ENGAGE IN A STRATEGIC RETREAT.

IT'S
!!
FEIABEL FARYUN, THE KUFALIA OF LOBNAS II.
WHICH KUFALIA OR TOSEL?
I'M READING MOSTLY ISAZU
PROBASLY LED BY A KUFALIA OR TOSEL
WHY WOULD THEY BE HERE?
THEY WERE TOLD TO WITHDRAW
THIS MUST BE THE TENTH TIME I'VE RUN INTO THAT FAZANZEL.
AND ALWAYS JUST WHERE SHE SHOULDN'T BE
FATE MUST HAVE TIED US TOGETHER WITH AN ELASTIC BAND
TYPICAL

Chapter 6
The Honor of the Empire
LUC BAL

HOW FORMAL OF HER.
NOT YET!
OH, I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR THIS

Not yet Nif


ROWAS ABRIEL
YOU DO KNOW AN ENEMY FLEET IS ON ITS WAY.
THAT WOULD NORMALLY BE CAUSE FOR TRANSPORT SHIPS TO LEAVE

YOU'RE A CARING PERSON! YOU WANT DESPERATELY TO HELP THEM! NO?
ALLOW ME TO GUESS FIRST...
THIS NAHEN IS CRAWLING WITH CRIMINALS THAT YOU HAVE TO EVACUATE.
DESPITE BEING TOLD TO LEAVE
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
BUT THESE ARE NAHENUDS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
ASH DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH NAHEN TROUBLES
We need the Labule to protect us!
BUT THE ENEMY FLEET IS STILL ON ITS WAY
WELL, THEN! PROMISES ARE IMPORTANT
DO YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR THAT?

DON'T BE SILLY!
YOU KNOW THAT MIGHT DAMAGE MY LITTLE SHIPS
WHEW!
SHE NEEDS OUR HELP
AGAINST AN ENTIRE ENEMY FLEET?!
SHE CAN'T GO ALONG WITH THIS!
!!
A UNITED MANKIND FLEET IS NEARLY UPON US
I MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO ORDER A COMPLETE WITH-DRAWAL.
HOW THIS IS AN EXCITING PREDICAMENT
THE ENEMY FLEET IS FAR STRONGER THAN WE ARE
BARRING A MIRACLE THEY'LL TEAR US TO PIECES
I SEE
IS THE RISK TO MY SOSU WORTH IT
TO SAVE YOUR SOSU AND THE LAWLESS RABBLE WITH IT?
OR GRANT YOUR REQUEST
AND HELP EVACUATE A NAHEN POPULATION

CAN YOU PROMISE ME A MIRACLE...

...ROWAS?

WHAT A HORRIBLE THOUGHT!

YOU'RE ASKING ME TO TAKE MY SHIP INTO A BATTLE IT CAN'T WIN TO GIVE YOU TIME.

THINK OF THIS AS LESS OF AN ORDER THAN A SUGGESTION.

GATHER YOUR SOSU AND LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

PERHAPS THIS WILL BE OF LITTLE COMFORT.

BUT I HAVE MY OWN FEARS AS WELL!

I, NIF SFOOR ALON SEKFAT LETOPANYU PENEJU, FEAR BEING REMEMBERED AS SOMEONE WHO DRAGGED HER SOSU INTO A POINTLESS BATTLE.

ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT THE POINT IS TO UPHOLD YOUR PROMISE?
I KNOW THAT ABRIELS SUFFUSE THEIR PROMISES WITH ALL THE PASSION IN THEIR HEARTS
I CANNOT ASSENT THIS TIME
NOT WHEN MY FLEET'S DESTRUCTION IS VIRTUALLY ASSURED
YOUR LIFE IS ONLY ONE IN AN ENDLESS DYNASTY. YOUR MARTYRDOM CARRIES ONLY A TRANSITORY SENSE OF LOSS
BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULD LET THIS ONE GO
!!
THEN WHAT?

Be careful, Princess Kufalia!
As Kufalia
I ask you to defeat Lohnas if until we've done leading
YOU...
IF WE HAD NOT PASSED BY LOBNAS...
TELL ME...
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?
WHAT A HORRIBLE THING TO SAY!
HOW HIDEOUSLY CANDID!
DID I JUST SAY THAT OUT LOUD?
YOU OBSTINATE LITTLE GIRL!!

POINT TAKEN
AND IF I JUST REFUSE ?
THAT'S RISKY, ROWAS
THE ENEMY SPENDS FIVE TO TEN DAYS AT EVERY STAR SYSTEM IT REACHES
ENOUGH TIME FOR MULTIPLE SCANS OF THE SURFACE
THEY'D DISPATCH YOU EASILY IF THEY FOUND YOU

SHE'S RIGHT, BUT
TCH
OKAY
YOU ARE IN A VERY FORTUNATE POSITION

YOU'VE CONVINCED ME, FEIA KUFALIA.
I ACCEPT YOUR REQUEST
!!!
WAIT A MOMENT, GRAHALE!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
BUT FEIA
I CANNOT GUARANTEE OUR SUCCESS IN DEFENDING YOU
AND I WON'T SACRIFICE MY ENTIRE FLEET TO PROTECT THIS BACKWATER.
DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR, FEIA?
YOU HAVE US FOR AS LONG AS WE CAN HOLD THE LINE.
WE WILL RETREAT THE MOMENT WE ARE IN JEOPARDY

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?
THE MISSION IS IMPOSSIBLE!
I AM A FAFYUT, THE NIF LETOPAN.
EVEN IF SHE IS ACTING AS KUFALIA!
I CANNOT REFUSE A REQUEST FROM MY FAZANZEL.
HONOR HAS ITS LIMITS!
THE PRIMARY ROLE OF THE LABULE IS TO PRESERVE THE HONOR OF THE FURYU BAL
BUT I AM
BUT RIGHT NOW, WE NEED YOU TO ACT LIKE THE GRAHALEL YOU ARE!

AND THAT'S WHAT BOTHERS ME
ABRIEL INSTINCTIVELY KNOW HOW TO IRK SPOOR
SHE'S DELUDED
!
GRAHALEL
THE COMPUTER UPLINK WITH THE BASROIL IS COMPLETE
AND HOW TO FOIST TROUBLE UPON THEM!
...!!
WHO'S THE ROY KUFALIA?
ARMED REBELS HAVE TAKEN THE ROY KUFALIA HOSTAGE ON THE NAHEN
RONYU DRIL HYDAL
THE NAHENUD?
IT GETS WORSE
THE FEIA SHOULD HAVE TOLD US
SHE HAD NO REASON
OUR FLEET COULD DEPLOY AN ASSAULT TEAM.
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO RESCUE HIM.
THAT WOULD MAKE US LESS EFFECTIVE UP HERE
NO

WE MUST LEAVE THIS TO FATE
THE DRIL HYDAL IS BAL SUIF
?
?
WE CAN ONLY HOPE FOR HIS SAFE RECOVERY
YES
I ONLY MET HIM ONCE, BUT I LIKED HIM
HE DRESSED THAT ABRIEL IN A RIDICULOUS OUTFIT OH, AND THE HAIR!
FEIA SOBBED?
OH WELL I'D NEVER HAVE SOBBED LIKE SHE DID, BUT—
ABRIELS DON'T CRY
WANT TO KNOW WHY?
YES
THE SPUNEJ MUST BE IMPARTIAL.
OR AT LEAST HER SUBJECTS MUST THINK SO
IF SHE CRIES FOR ONE
SHE MUST CRY FOR EVERYONE

HER SUBJECTS WOULD RESENT THAT THE EMPRESS OF ALL WOULD LOVE BUT A FEW
I SEE
BUT WE SPOORS KNOW A SECRET
I'm not surprised
I couldn't tell!
FEIA WAS WEEPING JUST NOW
ABRIELS DO CRY
THUS ABRIELS, TAILORED TO BECOME SPUNEJ...
CAN CRY FOR NO ONE
AND HOW COULD ANYONE DO THAT...
WEEP FOR EVERY ASH THAT FALLS
SORRY?!
FOR AN ABRIEL?!!
GRAHALEL!
YOU'RE ENDANGERING YOUR SOSNAL BECAUSE YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HER?
IF YOU PLAN ON BECOMING THE NIF LETOPANYU...
...YOU'VE GOT TO RECOGNIZE THE TEARS OF A YOUNG ABRIEL

WONDERING IF I'D DO IT?
Poke
I
ANY MORE IMPUDENT RUMBLINGS FROM YOU
Poke
Poke
Poke
...I'LL FILET YOUR TONGUE AND SERVE IT TO THE GASARUS!

PULL YOURSELF ABOARD!
IF ANGUSSON AND HIS THUGS CATCH YOU, IT'LL BE A WHOLE LOT WORSE!
STOP COMPLAINING!
SISTER SHANGAI!
I CAN'T GO ANYMORE!
I AGREE
THOSE RAFTS ARE BARELY SEAWORTHY
BUT IT COULD BE WORSE
THEY COULD HAVE HAD TO SWIM.
THIS IS MADNESS
SALEL GABORT
CERTAINLY ONE MOMENT
LAFEL, WOULD YOU CONTACT THE SEIMEI SOSUI
SPLASH
SPLASH

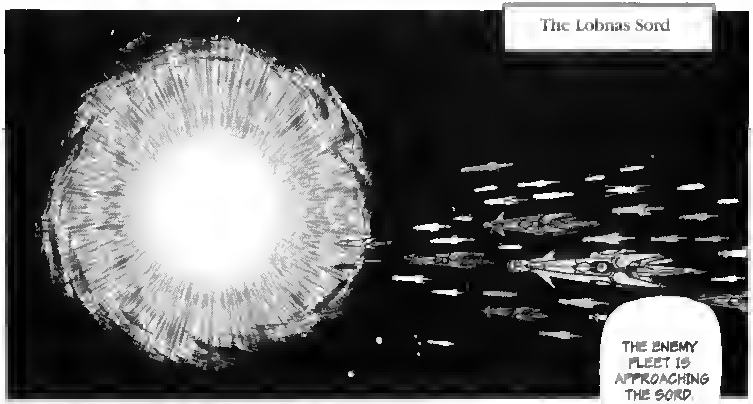
THIS IS THE KUFALIA...
CAN YOU PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE FIGHTING?
SURELY ONLY MEN ARE LEFT IN THE WESTERN SECTOR
WOULD IT HELP TO TELL ANGUSSON THAT?
WAIT...
HAS THERE BEEN ANY WORD ABOUT THE ROY KUFALIA?
PLEASE DO
YOU'RE NOT CONSIDERING ANY RASH ACTIONS...
FEIA.
WHY WOULD I?

IF YOU ATTEMPT TO LEAVE THE SHIP, FEIA.
WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO STOP YOU WITH FORCE
I ASSURE YOU.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING RASH.
THAT'S A RELIEF!
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE IS
JINTO
HOLD OUT A LITTLE LONGER!

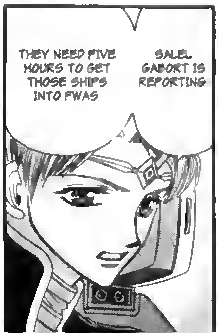
.....
WHAT...!
WHAT... HAPPENED?
IS ANGUSSON STILL AROUND?
I'VE GOT TO GET TO SAFETY!!
DOKUFU...

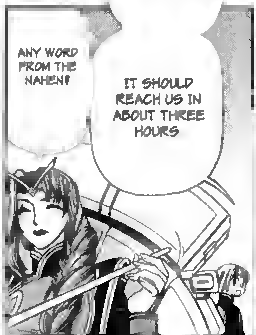
THAT RUSOOMIA BELONGS TO THE LABULE!!
LAFIEL MUST HAVE CONTINUED THE EVACUATION!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO NOW
STAY ALIVE AT ALL COSTS!

FSSSH


The Lobnas Sord
THE ENEMY FLEET IS APPROACHING THE SORD

MY POOR SHIPS ARE GOING TO GET BRUISED
FIVE HOURS


THEY NEED FIVE HOURS TO GET THOSE SHIPS INTO PWAS
SALEL GABORT IS REPORTING


ANY WORD FROM THE NAHEN?
IT SHOULD REACH US IN ABOUT THREE HOURS

ALL SHIPS...
ONWARD!
SLAM
ALL SHIPS OF THE BYURU KASNA HAVE PASSED THROUGH THE LOSNAS SORD INTO FWAS
THERE ARE 55 OF US INCLUDING THE FLAGSHIP
WASS KASALEL
THAT'S NOT EVEN ENOUGH FOR A RECONN MISSION
DIVIDE THIRTY OF OUR SHIPS INTO FIVE COMBAT WINGS
WE'LL MAKE UP THE SIXTH ALONG WITH THE REMAINING TWO!

ゴゴゴ

THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES
THEY MUST WANT THIS OVER AND DONE WITH

THEY'RE NOT TIPPING THEIR HAT

ドクン
WE'RE UNDER PLANNED AND UNDER-GUNNED
WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?
ドクン
ドクン

THE KILLING BLOW!

WASS KASALEL
PREPARE A DROSH FRAKTEDAL!
?!!

YOU WANT TO CONTACT THE ENEMY?
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO SAY?
THAT THERE'S REALLY NO POINT IN FIGHTING
THAT WE BOTH HAVE A CHANCE
TO AVOID LOSSES MAKE A TRUCE. THEN DEPART THROUGH DAZ IN A FEW HOURS
SOUND REASONABLE?
OF COURSE
THEY MIGHT SIMPLY THINK
THAT THE LASULE IS LED BY AN ONYU.
Chapter 7
Things to Protect
BOURANDOMON

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND A WAY TO GET THE ENEMY FLEET TO HOLD BACK. THERE'S NO REASON FOR US TO FIGHT.
ALL WE NEED IS TIME.
OH, I COULDN'T LIVE WITH THAT STIGMA!
AND THAT ONYU WOULD BE ME!
THE DROSH SHALL READ
This is the Grand of the Brig Byuru Kasna Fade Spoor We're here only temporarily to look out for our fleet You will drop your opposition and remain still until we can slink away
SOUND GOOD?
.....
SIR!
SEND THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE.
KASARIA PROSHOT STEN A CHANNEL.
YES!
YOU THINK SO?
GO FOR IT
PERHAPS SOME POLISHING IS IN ORDER.

Beep
This is the Lue Labule Kufazet Breg Byuru Kasna. We have no desire to battle and promise to depart this system in six hours. We request that you delay your advance
BEEP
THE FLEET HAS HALTED!
?!
THE ENEMY FLEET IS RESPONDING!
Beep

TELL THEM IT'S NOT ENOUGH!
WE'LL NEED AT LEAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!
IF WE COULD MOVE THAT QUICKLY, THERE'D BE NO NEED TO ASK!
YOU'D THINK THEY WOULD REALIZE THAT.
BUT I ONLY ASKED FOR SIX
WASS KASALEL. HAVE YOU EVER WORKED IN BUSINESS?
NO, FRODE I'VE BEEN IN THE LABULE
SINCE I WAS A YOUNG MAN
WELL, THAT EXPLAINS IT
IN BUSINESS YOU LEARN THAT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A FIXED PRICE
IT'S TIME TO HAGGLE
TELL THEM IT WAS A MISTAKE
WE NEED TWENTY-FOUR HOURS
THAT'S ALL.
Beep!
WE HAVE A REPLY!

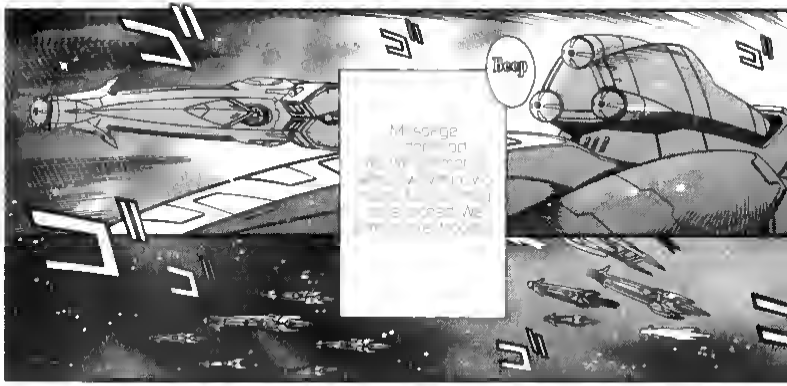
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THIS COMMANDER IS TRULY ...A RANK AMATEUR.
THE MORE HE TALKS, THE MORE TIME WE HAVE.
CLEARLY, HE LACKS BUSINESS SENSE... ...JUST LIKE ME.
IF THAT'S TRUE...
THERE'LL BE BLOOD SHED
THEY'VE REPLIED
Beep
SHE ENJOYS THIS MORE THAN BATTLE.
ARE YOU BEING TOO FORCEFUL?
DO THEY WANT TO END NEGOTIATIONS?
ASK THEM
Beep
Beep
WE'LL TELL THEM AFTER THEY ACCEPT
THEY WANT TO AVOID A REAL FIGHT.
THE FLEET HAS HELD ITS POSITION.
THAT'S GOOD FOR US.
OH, THAT'S A SECRET.

Thirty minutes later
A REPLY
THAT'S ALL
EXPLAIN OUR SITUATION TO THEM.
BE POLITE. SPEAK CLEARLY AND SLOWLY
CERTAINLY
THEIR COMMANDER IS A GOOD MAN
I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS OR WHERE HE CAME FROM.
BUT HE'S GOT AT LEAST SOME BUSINESS SENSE

I SEE NO REASON TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER.
SO HONEST, THIS MAN
Thirty minutes later
THE ENEMY HAS REPLIED!
THAT'S ALL.
DO YOU THINK THEY'RE LOW ON RESOURCES?
YES, I DO
CONSIDERING THEIR INITIAL BELLIGERENCE
WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE.
THEY PROBABLY HAVE SUFFICIENT RESERVES
THE LONGER WE WAIT
THE MORE THEY BURN AWAY AND COME CLOSER TO OUR FRASES OF COURSE, THEY COULD JUST CHOOSE TO FIGHT

Author's Note: To remind us Plant Style (Gwass), Ashy needs to maintain a space engine feasible distance, which requires a tremendous amount of energy. Would he think those individuals were users for the Death Gaffle Superweapon system to Plant Style?

I FEEL THAT WE'RE SEVERELY OUTNUMBERED
AN UNENVIABLE POSITION
PREPARE YOURSELF, WASS KASALEL
THE FEAR OF DEATH WILL NOT SLOW THEM.


Beep
Message

THE ENEMY WILL ARRIVE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES
BOARDING IS COMPLETE
A CRAFT REQUESTS PERMISSION TO LAND
IS IT THE SEF SOSUK

Planet Lobnas II

I AM TOMASOF, THE SEF SOSU
I'M HONORED TO MEET YOU
KUFALIA
HAVE THEY BROUGHT HIM BACK?
WE FOUND THIS
IT'S JINTO'S CLYUNO!
WHERE WAS IT?
ONCE THE REBELLION TURNED IN ON ITSELF, I INITIATED A SEARCH FOR THE ROY KUFALIA
THE BASROIL PERFORMED A SCAN OF THE SURFACE AND PICKED UP HIS SIGNATURE
BUT IT WAS ONLY RESIDUE ON HIS COMMUNICATOR.
I'M SORRY
CODE
HEAVE

GOOD WORK
THANK YOU
Huff
Huff

Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff

MY LAST CHANCE

IT'S BEGUN
PREPARE HOKSATEYOX!
FIRE THE AGA IZOFOT!
WHAT LOVELY PEOPLE
SO PUNCTUAL!
THE ENEMY HAS STARTED ITS ADVANCE
SO WE FIGHT?
OF COURSE
THE ENEMY FRONTLINE HAS CROSSED THE BLAST RANGE OF OUR HOKSAS
THEIR FLEET HAS SPLIT INTO FORWARD AND GUARD SQUADRONS
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN THEY WON'T BE ARMED
COULD THE GUARD SQUADRON JUST BE SUPPLY SHIPS?

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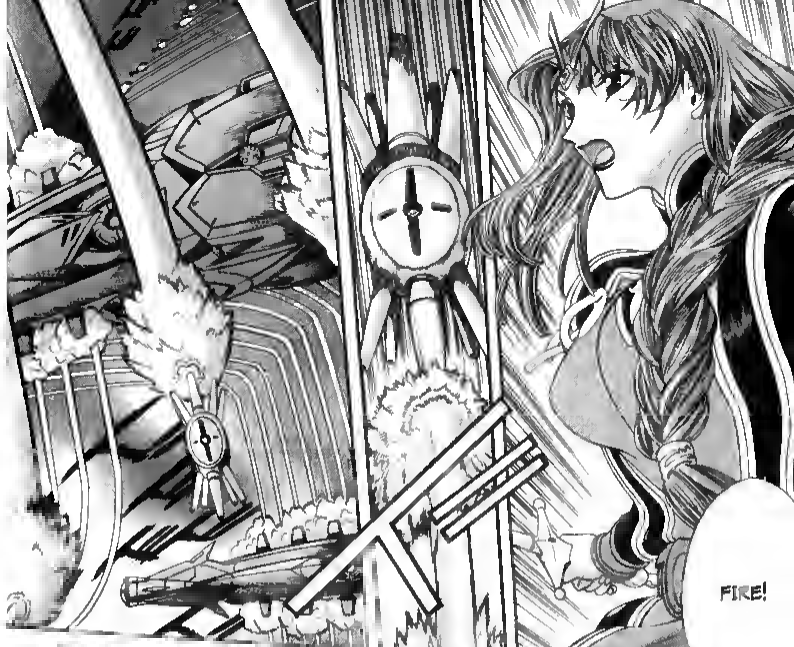
ゴ
ゴ
NEW STRATEGY!
SQUADRONS FOUR AND FIVE REMAIN IN POSITION
DON'T LET A SINGLE SHIP THROUGH THAT SORD!
THE REMAINDER OF THE FLEET WILL CHARGE THROUGH THE FRONT LINE AND ATTACK THE GUARD SQUADRON
WE'RE ALREADY OUTGUNNED! SPLITTING UP WILL WEAKEN US MORE!
DO YOU WANT US TO DIE!?
IF WE DO BREAK THROUGH THEY'LL SURROUND US AND PICK US OFF ONE BY ONE!
LISTEN WASS KASALEL.
MY FAMILY HAS GATHERED TWENTY EIGHT ARTISTS FROM ACROSS THE TERRITORIES TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT THE NTH LEVEL OF A TOMB
WHEN IT'S DONE WE'LL HOST A MAGNIFICENT FEAST TO CELEBRATE ITS COMPLETION
HOW MORBID
A MAGNIFICENT MONUMENT TO MY FAMILY
!!
AND WHAT DOES THAT TOMB HAVE TO DO WITH THIS!

BUT THEY'RE PREFABRICATED AND MASS-PRODUCED
KAU-CLASS LEGUI ARE STURDY SHIPS
THEY'RE HARDLY WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR IN A COFFIN...
NOR SHOULD YOU
HAVE NO FEAR! THEY WON'T DESTROY US
I SIMPLY WON'T LET THEM
I HAVE A PLAN!!
SEPARATE ALL SHIPS INTO INDIVIDUAL FRASAS!
ASSUME TIGHT FORMATION NUMBER EIGHT!
WE'LL SOFTEN THE FRONT LINE SHIPS WITH OUR HOKSAS!

THE FRONT SQUADRONS HAVE US IN A CROSSFIRE!
QUICKLY!
SPLIT FRASAS TO CLOSE IN FROM BOTH SIDES
ORDER THEM TO TARGET THE FOURTH AND FIFTH GUARD SQUADRONS!
LAUNCH THE FELIAS!


FIRE!

THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
HOKSAS REACHING GOL LYUTGOS
THE ENEMY HAS NOT RETALIATED
Beep
THE GUARD SQUADRONS ARE SPLITTING INTO TWO FLANKS!
Beep

IT'S OUR BEST CHANCE TO BREAK THROUGH!
TURN ABOUT! TARGET THE LEFT FLANK
FIRE HOKSAS, ALL DIRECTIONS!!

THE RYUMUJGE IS HIT!
GO, FUTALOS WITH ENEMY FLEET!

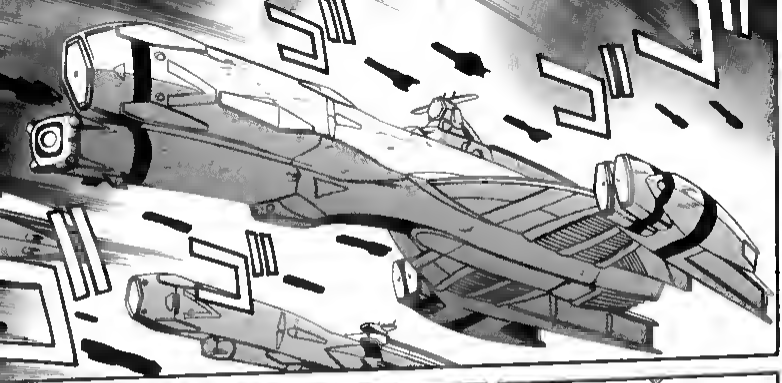
GRANTED
THEY CAN'T FIGHT
REQUESTING PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW!
WE'VE LOST THE RYUMUKA!
THE BRIDGE OF THE SRYUZUBILGE HAS DECOMPRESSED! THEY'RE LOSING THEIR FRASAS!
WE'VE LOST THEM!
THE ONLY SHIP LEFT FROM THE FIRST TWO SQUADRONS IS
THE SUMUBILGE!
THE UZETKAU'S ENGINES ARE HIT!
IT'S THE KURAKU-KAU!!
UGH
DID WE HIT AN ENEMY SHIP?
!!
THAT WAS CLOSE!

HAVE THEY FINISHED YET ON LOBNAS?!
WE CAN'T!
THE SUMUBILGE IS GONE!
TELL THE SUMUBILGE TO JOIN OUR FRASAS!
OH, STOP BEING SUCH A PAIN
WASS KASALEL
WHEN THEY'RE DONE, WE'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW!
UGH

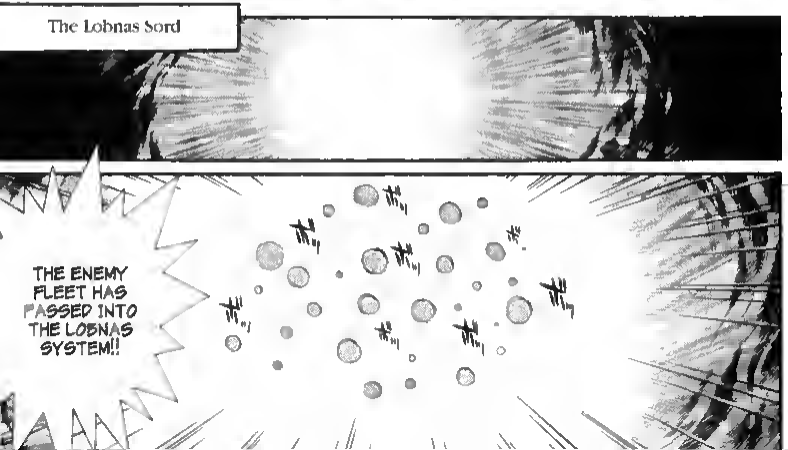
?!!
WE'RE HIT!
DIRECT HIT TO SECTOR THIRTEEN READING PRESSURE LEAKS IN FIFTEEN
BUT OVERALL DAMAGE IS MINIMAL!
UNBEARABLE
A SHIP BEARING THE BANNER OF GADARUS HAS BEEN DAMAGED!
THE REST OF THE FLEET SEEMS TO BE HAVING A BIT MORE LUCK.
THE ENEMY GUARD SQUAD IS ALMOST WIPED OUT
WE KEPT THEM FROM GOING THROUGH THE LODNAS GORD.
IT'S OVER.

ALL SHIPS FULL BACK!
BUT WE'RE SURROUNDED!
REMEMBER NEITHER OF US WANT TO FIGHT
WHEN WE WITHDRAW... THE ENEMY WILL COME TO THE EXACT SAME CONCLUSION
I DOUBT THEY'LL CHASE US
THEN AGAIN IT'S POSSIBLE THE ENEMY IS LED BY ONYU
ALL SHIPS, COME ABOUT!
SET COURSE FOR THE LASHU ELKFAL SORD
YES
NOBODY DAWDLE!
TIME TO BE...
...ON OUR MERRY WAY!

THE ENEMY IS BLOCKING OUR EXIT!
THEY'RE JUST BITTER ABOUT OUR DEAL
THEY ARE LED BY FOOLS!
PUNCH THROUGH THEIR LINES!
ANOTHER SHIP LOST!
THEY'VE DESTROYED THE DOUBLISE!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
HOW COULD I HAVE MISJUDGED SO BADLY?



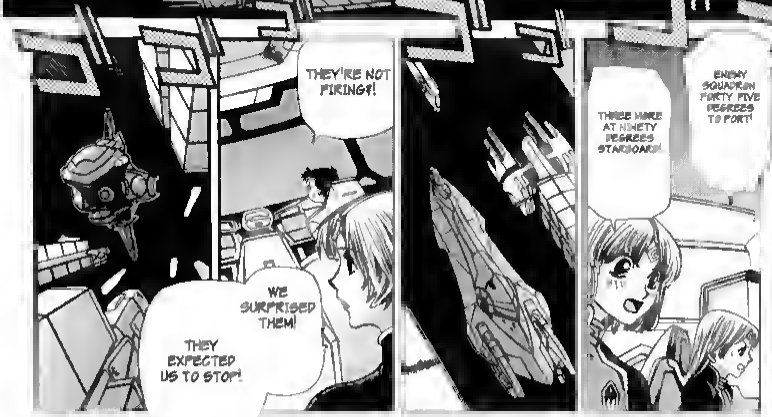
IS THAT GRATITUDE IN HER VOICE?
IT SEEMS SO
THE ENEMY FLEET IS PASSING THROUGH THE LOBNAS SORD!
A GROUP OF ABH SHIPS IS RISING FROM THE SURFACE!
ARE THEY GIVING US A WAY OUT?


The Lobnas Sord
THE ENEMY FLEET HAS PASSED INTO THE LOBNAS SYSTEM!!

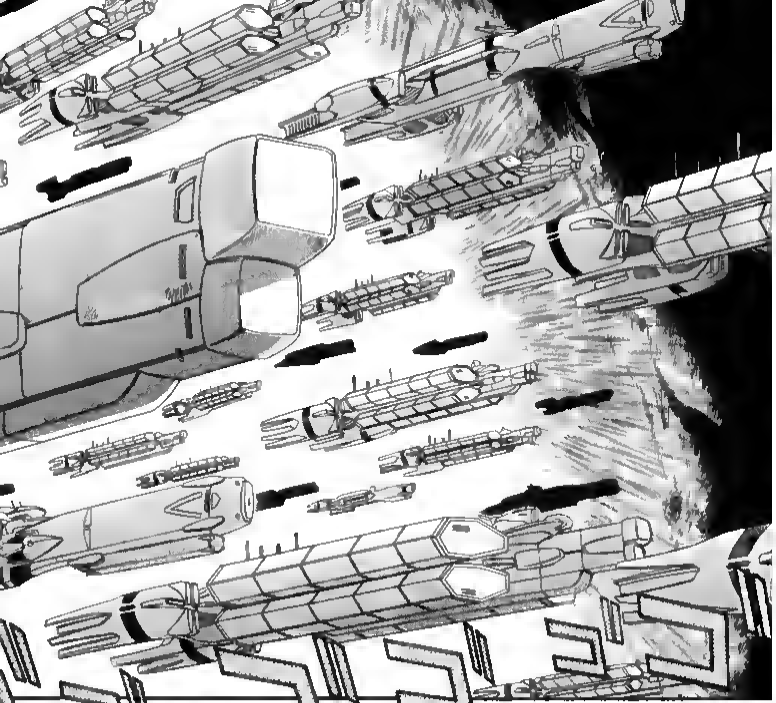
PROCEED AS WE ARE.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WE'RE TOO LATE
ALL SHIPS, PREPARE TO ACTIVATE FRASAS!!

THEY'RE FOLLOWING US!
I KNOW!
IGNORE THEM! KEEP GOING!

Chapter 8
Lay Down the Bow
ENEMY WARSHIP


THEY'RE NOT FIRING?!
WE SURPRISED THEM!
THEY EXPECTED US TO STOP!
THREE MORE AT NINETY DEGREES STARBOARD!
ENEMY SQUADRON FORTY FIVE DEGREES TO PORT!





IF THEY FIRE NOW, THEY'LL HIT EACH OTHER!
WE CAN MAKE IT!

ENTERING THE LOBNAS SORD!!

WE DID IT!
WE'RE THROUGH!
NOT YET!
MESSAGE COMING THROUGH.
THE ENEMY FLEET HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF THE SORD
THEY CAN AMBUSH US IN FWAS!
I AGREE SALEL SABORT
TAKE THE COMMAND GRYU.
HAVING YIELDED LOENAS TO THE ENEMY, I'VE LOST MY AUTHORITY AS KUFALIA.
I'M BACK TO BEING MERELY ROWAS
I HEREBY ASSUME COMMAND
ALL FRASAS MAXIMUM SPEED!
MAINTAIN DISTANCE FROM THE ENEMY!
WE HAVE TO AVOID GOL PUTALOS WITH THEM!

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ゴ
ゴ
.....
HE DIDN'T COME BACK
JINTO
RINYUL EKURYUA.
!
WHAT'S THE ENEMY'S POSITION?
EVERYWHERE.
PORT, STARBOARD
Beep
Beep
NO THEY DIDN'T
SO THE BYURU KASNA MADE IT OUT!
VERY WELL. LET'S LINK UP WITH FRODE SPOOR
ROY MANOWA WE'RE BEING ASKED TO REGROUP
IT'S FROM THE LASHKAU

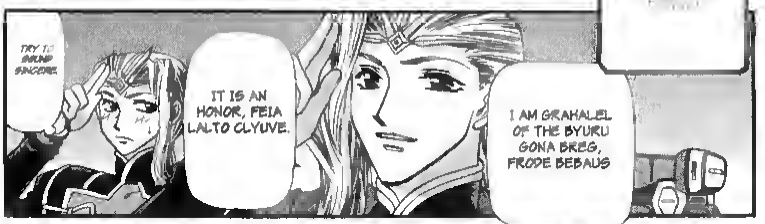
OUT OF THIRTY-THREE LESUI THAT ENTERED THE BATTLE...
TWENTY-SIX HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, SEVEN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED... INCLUDING THE LASHKAU.
ALL THAT REMAINS
THE MIGHTY BYUKU KASNA!

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN!
COUNTLESS BOSNAL GAVE THEIR LIVES...
FOR WHAT! CAN I HONESTLY SAY THEIR DEATHS HAD PURPOSE!
HOW MANY HAVE DIED IN THE THREE YEARS WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING THE UNITED MANKIND!
THESE DOUBTS HAVE PLAGUED MY GRANDMOTHER EVERY DAY OF THIS WAR
AS A CHILD, AS A RODAIL, AS MANOWAS I NEVER DOUBTED THAT AMBITION
AS AN ABKIEL, I'VE NEVER DOUBTED I WOULD ONE DAY ASCEND THE THRONE.
DO I HAVE THE STRENGTH FOR THIS!
BUT NOW WHERE HAS MY CONFIDENCE GONE!
AM I FIT FOR THE LABULE!

I FEAR THAT EVEN SUPPLY SHIPS COULD HAVE BLOWN US FROM THE SKY
NOR DID WE
WE KNOW WHY THEY DIDN'T FIRE
THE SHIPS WE PASSED WERE MERELY SUPPLY SQUADRONS
THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO FIRE WITH.
WE WERE LUCKY
WE'VE LOCATED THE LYWESES
UNDERSTOOD PREPARE FOR SHL LYUTOOS
TAKE US OUT OF THIS GRAVEYARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
DO THEY BLAME ME?
THEY'D BE RIGHT TO DO SO.
WHAT WEIGHS MORE HEAVILY? THE COUNTLESS THOUSANDS..
...OR HIM.

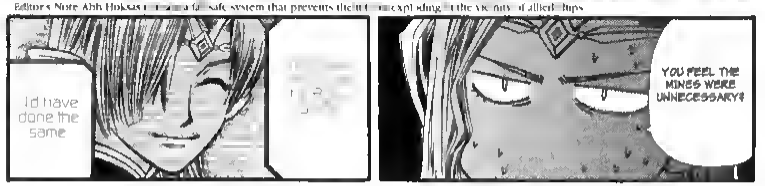
THEY SURRENDER?!
After twenty three days
Frode Trife and the Byuru Matrokvutona Breg drove the United Mankind Peace Brigade Salar Sector Fleet from the Lobnas Sord and surrounded them
ARE YOU REFUSING THEM!
GRRRRRR! I'M NOT ALLOWED TO REFUSE THEM!
OR SHOULD WE CONVINCE THEM TO RECONSIDER THEIR SURRENDER?
WHY GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE WHEN I CAN JUST REFUSE THEM!
WE'RE FORTUNATE WE WON'T HAVE TO RISK OUR FLEET
YES
ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN!
I WANTED TO BLAST THEM APART, DECK BY DECK!
REALLY? YOU MADE BANNERS?
Yes
At your request
Mine?
BUT I'D LIKE TO LEAVE UP THE BANNERS, IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT
VERY WELL. THE BANNERS STAY
AND THE CREW PERFORMED WELL.
WELL I SUPPOSE WE DID WIN
FINE
HALT ALL BATTLE OPERATIONS
BRING IN THE HOKSAS!
POWER DOWN THE VOK LANYU
I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD TAKE DOWN THE VICTORY BANNERS
STAND DOWN FROM BATTLE STATIONS AND RELAX
YOU TAKE CARE OF THIS I NEED TO CALM DOWN
I'LL DO THAT
CONGRATULATE THE ENEMY FOR ME.

ALREADY LIBERATED?!
Mean while
At Vascotton Sord, Frode Bebaus and the Byuru Gona Breg are surprised to learn the enemy has already been vanquished. Nonetheless they celebrate their progress by launching a battery of mines into space
YOU LOOK POSITIVELY MORTIFIED, NEREIS
MOST LIKELY SHIPS ON THEIR WAY FROM FEK IRIK
WHO DID THIS?
I SHOULD HAVE BEATEN THEM HERE.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS NEREIS IT'S JUST
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?
DAMN! I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD SHIPS THERE!
THERE'S ALWAYS THE VOORASH SYSTEM NEREIS
NOW LET'S AT LEAST TALK TO THEM.
MY MEMOIRS VOLUME TWO
NATURALLY
CLIMAX? OF WHAT?
I NOW FACE IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT...
INSTEAD OF A THRILLING CLIMAX!



We were about to do when we countered
We shou both be thankful to failsafe sur
WHY HAVEN'T YOU ESTABLISHED A PERIMETER PATROL FOR THE NEWLY SECURED SYSTEM?
A QUESTION, FEIA?

Editor's Note: Ahh Hokcas [illegible] a fail-safe system that prevents the ship [illegible] exploding in the vicinity of allied ships.



SHE REQUESTED LEAVE
...AND LEFT MY COMMAND TO BECOME A KUFALIA AGAIN
AT LAST REPORT, SHE WAS MOUNTING A PRIVATE EXPEDITION
I WOULDN'T PUT IT QUITE THAT WAY
SHE SEEMS FAR MORE INTERESTED IN DIPLOMACY THAN THE MILITARY
Incidentally, I hear my daughter is in your care
WE'RE AWAITING ORDERS FROM THE EYURU BREG GRAGAF
WHAT!

Lobnas II
HACK
HACK
BORN INTO DARKNESS
PERISH INTO DARKNESS
HACK
HACK
HACK

HANG ON!
?!
WHY AM I WRITING IN ABH!
I NEVER DID INTEND TO DIE A POET.
AND I WASN'T EVEN BORN INTO DARKNESS
HOW TYPICAL
Sawt
Etch
I CAN USE MY NATIVE MARTINESE
BETTER TO OFFEND AESTHETICS IN MY NATIVE TONGUE.
Hm
MAYBE I CAN TRANSLATE FROM MARTINESE TO ABH.
BUT EVERYTHING I WRITE SOUNDS LIKE AN ELEGY
DO I HAVE ONLY THE NIGHT TO LOOK FORWARD TO?
Aaaa
AH.
NO ONE FROM MARTINE IS GOING TO READ THIS
THE PERSON I WANT TO READ IT
SPEAKS ONLY ABH

1
WHO'S THAT?
AM I SEEING THINGS?
AM I STILL IN DANGER?

YOU CAN'T GO!
MANOWAS, PLEASE WAIT HERE
IT'S DANGEROUS!
THIS IS MY SEARCH!
YOU SHALL NOT KEEP ME AWAY!
BUT YOUR CLOTHES
YOU COULD DRAW THE WRONG TYPE OF ATTENTION
.....

I DIDN'T HIRE YOU TO PROTECT ME! THAT'S NOT YOUR JOB
IF YOU WERE TO GET HURT, WE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO TRUST OURSELVES
WE OWE OUR NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES TO YOU. THIS IS OUR FIRST POST AS ABH SUBJECTS
I ALSO IMPLORE YOU
MANOWAS
I KNOW YOU REGRET THE CHOICE YOU MADE.
BUT YOU CAN'T ATONE SIMPLY BY PUTTING YOURSELF IN HARM'S WAY!
.....
IT'S BEST TO WAIT HERE
...AND LET THE SCOUTS FIND HIM.
THAT'S TRUE. BUT...
MANOWAS, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
ATONE!
IS THAT WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO?

DEPLOY THE NEXT SEARCH PARTIES!
PERHAPS
THEN THERE'S NO NEED FOR ANY UNNECESSARY RISK!
THE DECISION I MADE WAS CORRECT.
PARTIES SIX AND SEVEN, AWAIT YOUR ORDERS!
NO, WE HAVE BETTER WAYS OF PUNISHING OURSELVES.
AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE ME BEHIND WHILE YOU SEEK YOUR OWN ATONEMENT
WE?
YES. I MEAN "WE" FROM MY HOME WORLD
WHAT DO YOU DO?
WE COOK
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO

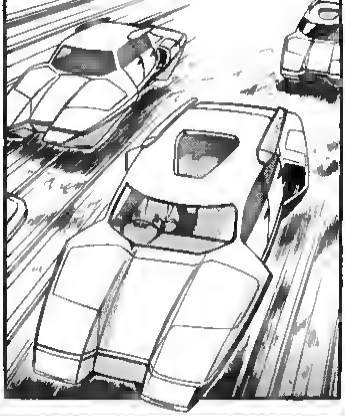
A FEAST TO CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF A LONG-ABSENT FRIEND
THAT'S OUR CUSTOM.
THIS IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO SET UP MY KITCHEN
YOU BROUGHT YOUR KITCHEN?
OF COURSE
WHY ELSE WOULD I TAKE LEAVE IN ORDER TO COME HERE?
BACK HOME ON MIDGRAT...
...THERE'S ONE THING ONE MUST ALWAYS DO
NOT WASTE FOOD?
?
CLOSE!
YOU MUST SHOW UP WHEN SOMEONE FIXES YOU A MEAL
I
AND I'VE NEVER KNOWN THAT BOY TO BE RUDE
.....
CAN I HELP?
NO I MEAN BUT WELL...
YOU HAVE TO DO IT A CERTAIN WAY...
I ONLY BROUGHT IMPLEMENTS FOR ONE.
SO
FINE...

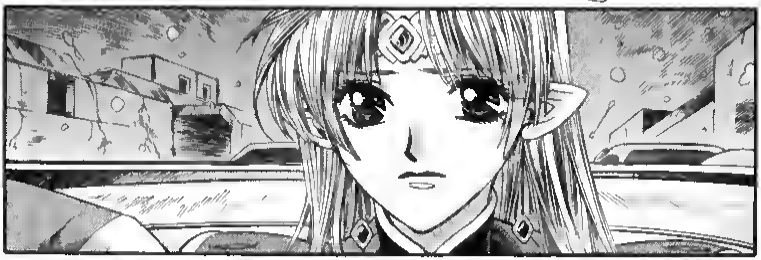
I MEAN HOW WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I SEE HIM AGAIN?
SHOULD I.
SAMSON WAIT
WELL THEN
WELL THAT DEPENDS ON JUST WHO IT IS YOU WANT HIM TO SEE!
AND IF HE'S MORE?
WELL, I'M COOKING TO CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF A FRIEND
QUESTION QUESTION
IT DEPENDS
ARE YOU WELCOMING BACK A SUBORDINATE YOU LEFT BEHIND
AS A RESULT OF A DECISION YOU STILL BELIEVE WAS RIGHT?
IF SO, YOU JUST SAY "GREAT WORK, SOLDIER" AND PAT HIM ON THE BACK
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU KNOW WHO I MEAN

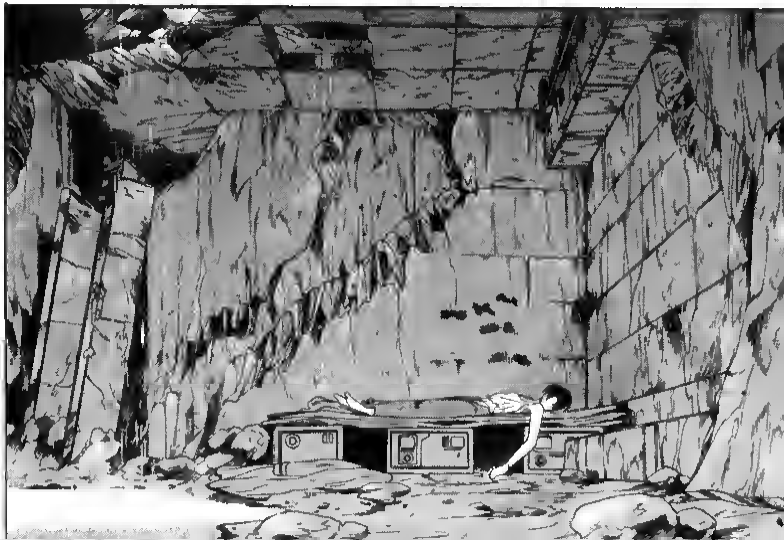
WHEN I FINALLY GO HOME I'LL REGALE EVERYONE I MEET WITH THIS
HOW I PROVIDED MORAL GUIDANCE TO A PRINCESS IN NEED!
THERE'S NOTHING TO FORGIVE! I'LL TREASURE THIS MOMENT THE REST OF MY LIFE!
IT'S YOUR CHOICE
AND YOU ALWAYS CHOOSE RIGHT
FORGIVE ME I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED

KLINK

WHAT HAPPENED? WHO WAS KILLED?
GET 'EM OFF ME!
FEIA
STAY STILL!
CALM DOWN!
I DIDN'T KILL HIM!
SHE WAS HOLDING THIS
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
HE WAS DEAD WHEN I FOUND 'EM.
SHE'S AN ALKAIK ADDICT
ONE DON'T NEED NOTHING WHEN YOU'RE DEAD!
IT'S UGLY, BUT I TOOK IT ANYWAY.
SHE NEEDS TO SHOW US WHERE SHE FOUND THE ALPHA.
I DON'T TRUST HER, BUT IF THERE'S A BODY THERE...
...YOUR HIGHNESS MIGHT IDENTIFY IT.
LET'S GO!







ARE YOU CERTAIN THIS IS THE SAME BODY?
YEP. STRANGE CLOTHES HE WAS SENT STRANGE TOO
HE WAS LIKE THAT WHEN I TOOK IT FROM 'EM.


DID YOU RUN A DNA TEST?
IT'S IN PROGRESS
WE SHOULD KNOW IN JUST A BIT

!!
Chapter 9
An Abriel's Tears
DEM2 ABRIELSAL

Always
And with me in the dream
Places I had never even been
And several more wondrous nahen
My home on Mastine
The Delkine nahen
The Clashul nahen
I did not suffer the machinations of day.
It was land nahen laid before my eyes
my dreams danced before me
Time after time in transient repose
.....

DNA CONFIRMS THAT.
I COULDA TOLD YOU THAT.
IT'S NOT HIS EXCELLENCY.
HIS NAME'S JAN, NOT EXCELLENCY
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO EARLIER!
I THOUGHT I DID!
.....
POOR PEACEFUL JAN. WHY'D THEY DO THIS TO YOU!
HOW'D HE GET THE COUNT'S ALPHA!
YOU GOT WHAT I NEED, DAY OR NIGHT
OH! I CAN TELL YOU IF YOU GIVE ME SOMETHING!
IS FOOD OKAY, OR DO YOU WANT JEWELRY TOO!
FOOD!!
WE'LL GET YOU SOME NOW TELL US

I HEARD SINGING
SINGING?
SOME FOREIGN SONG
WE HEARD SINGIN', AND WENT TO SEE WHERE IT WAS
THERE WAS THIS GUY WITH THAT HEADBAND
AND YOU STOLE IT?!
WE WANTED TO, BUT WE WAS FLYIN' ON ALKAIK!
WE HAD SOME FOOD AND HE HAD A GUN.
WE DIDN'T WANNA GET SHOT
...SO JAN GAVE 'EM FOOD FOR THE SAND.
LISTEN TO ME. WHEN WAS THIS?
WELL...
YESTERDAY MAYBE. OR LAST YEAR. A MONTH.
IT WASN'T YESTERDAY OR A YEAR AGO.
SHOW US WHERE.
I REMEMBER! IT'S IN A VERY IMPORTANT PLACE.
BUT THAT COSTS A LITTLE MORE ♫
FINE. JUST SHOW US.
I HAVE A REQUEST

IT IS POSSIBLE THE COUNT IS STILL ALIVE
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN BELIEVE THAT WOMAN?
LET'S MAKE SURE HER STORY IS TRUE
THE COUNT DID BUSINESS WITH THESE PEOPLE. THEY DESERVE AT LEAST A GRAVE AND SOME FLOWERS
COULD YOU MAKE SURE JAN GETS A PROPER BURIAL?
WHEN ASH DO BUSINESS WITH OTHERS, WE TREAT THEM WITH RESPECT
OF COURSE. YOU'RE RIGHT
YOUR HIGHNESS! ARE YOU OKAY?

I SHALL WAIT HERE
THE TEARS ARE STRONG...
OKAY...
I'LL BE BACK
ALL RIGHT!
BRING THE STRETCHER!
YES, SIR.
COUNT HYDE!
ARE YOU IN HERE?
WE ARE WITH THE ABH!

RADIO TO BASE!
GET MEDICAL IN HERE!
HE'S ALIVE!

JINTO!
JINTO!
JINTO!!
WE'LL TURN IT DOWN
It's bright

Hey
Lafiel

YES.
YOU LOOK TIRED.
It's been a... while hasn't it.
HE'S ALIVE!
Heh.
I look worse than I feel
Hack Hack
Oh?
I look forward to it.
I'M SURE THE DOCTOR WILL LET YOU EAT LYUL, OR AT LEAST OTON.
LET'S GO HOME
SAMSON IS COOKING FOR YOU

There were so many
Sometimes slowly
?
WHAT KIND OF DREAMS?
But in every one...
I had this dream
//
GASP!

?
.....
I thought Abriels didn't cry.
—my precious Faia Kufena

ONYU

ENGINE CONDITION, NOMINAL. ALL IS WELL.
BOTH THE VOK LANYU AND THE LENYUJU ARE OPERATIONAL
AMAZING! WE'RE RETURNING THIS SHIP IN PRISTINE CONDITION
YEAH, WE TOOK GREAT CARE OF HER!
FOR ONCE
IT'S ODD HOW ALL THE RODAIL ARE TRANSFERRING AT THE SAME TIME
AT LEAST EKURYUA HAS SIGNED ON AS LILBIGA ON MY NEXT SHIP
I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT COME TOO, PEKTODAI.
NO, I'VE SERVED MY TOUR.
TIME TO HEAD HOME AND COOK!

A SHAME.
WHAT SURPRISES ME IS THOSE TWO LEAVING THE LABULE.
I'M SURE IT WON'T BE FOR TOO LONG
THAT'S TRUE.
FAREWELL, BASROIL

The Bal Arosh Lakfakalle
Feline Nourishment Facility at Clyuve Royal Palace
THE LALUBEI CLYUVE KAFA DYUKAL
WELL, THEN!
CATS REALLY DO HAVE NO HEART.
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ME.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO ROUGH WITH HIM.
JINTO

WILL YOU TAKE HIM WITH YOU?
HE'S MY CAT.
WELL, MAYBE SO, BUT...
OH...
HIS EYES USED TO HAVE THAT FERAL GLITTER.
HE DOES SEEM HAPPIER HERE.
BUT FOR DIABLO'S SAKE...
WOULDN'T HE BE BETTER OFF HERE?
PROBABLY.
MAYBE HE'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND!
THIS IS A BETTER PLACE FOR HIM.
YOU SAY RIDICULOUS THINGS.
FINE. FINE. WE'RE NOT LEAVING SOON ANYWAY.
HE'S NEVER BEEN FERAL, EVEN AS A KITTEN.

THAT WHITE CAT WITH THE BROWN COLORED PATTERN...
IS IT FEMALE?
AND A MAIDEN AT THAT!
SELKURXA COME HERE.
SHE COMES WHEN YOU CALL HER.
IF YOU'RE TAKING DIAHO
THEN I THINK I SHOULD TAKE HER TOO
DIAHO! COME HERE!
SEL IS THAT OKAY?
YOU SHALL COME WITH ME
WE'RE GOING TO A PLACE CALLED MARTINE. IT'S A NAHEN FILLED WITH THE STRANGEST LIVING THINGS
SO MANY CREATURES FOR YOU TO HUNT

HEY, LAFIEL.
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS ALL RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
LEAVING THE LABULE...
COMING WITH ME...
WE TALKED THIS THROUGH ALREADY.
I'VE BEEN WITH THE LABULE FOR TEN YEARS.
IT'S TIME FOR AN EXTENDED BREAK.
THERE'S NO RULE THAT THE EMPRESS MUST BE FROM THE LALTONEI CLYUVE.
IT MIGHT BE A PLEASANT CHANGE FOR THE SPUNEJ TO COME FROM A DIFFERENT FAMILY.
REALLY?
IF YOU'RE GONE LONG...
...CAN YOU STILL BECOME SPUNEJ?

I NEVER WANT TO FEEL THAT WAY AGAIN

I WANT TO WATCH OVER YOU.
EVEN SO...

THINKING I HAD LOST YOU WAS HORRIFYING.
I...

I'M HAPPY YOU CARE SO MUCH, BUT
MARTINE'S MY HOMEWORLD.
I'LL BE FINE
MOST LIKELY

I GUESS IT'S A BIT SCARY...
BUT...

IS THAT SO?
YOU ONCE TOLD ME YOU WERE AFRAID TO GO BACK.

IT'S SOMETHING I'LL HAVE TO DO, SOONER OR LATER
BUT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU
I DON'T WANT YOU HURT BY MY PROBLEMS...
LAFIEL
...!
BE STRAIGHT WITH ME!!
DO YOU WANT ME TO COME WITH YOU OR NOT!
YOU SHALL BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN!
DRIL LIN SUN ROCK HYDAL!!

I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
I want you to come.
I'D BE HAPPY IF YOU STAYED BY MY SIDE
LAFIEL
THEN I SHALL GO TO MARTINE

Mrrrow
WHAT, DIAHO? YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY BEHIND AFTER ALL?

Banner of the Stars II

Protecting The Precious

The End

# Afterword

Hi! Nice to meet you. It's Wasoh Miyakoshi. This book is my first time working on a comic adaptation. It's my first original serialization, my first space opera, my first work for Dengeki Comics and my first fit of nervousness (because after looking at the manuscript for the first time, I see that my sketches are overly serious and solemn.)
I had various experiences, good and bad.

I think the gap between me and "Crest" and "Banner I" artist Mr. Toshihiro Ono is quite pronounced, but this was really fun work and I'm happy. In other words, this is honestly how interesting an original work is...

I had a lot of help in various ways during serialization. I humbly thank my boss Ishikuro, the anime staff, the original writer Mr. Hiroyuki Morioka, friends and acquaintances who assisted me, and the readers! Thank you very much.

Wasoh Miyakoshi
2002

# SEKAI TRILOGY

**aga izofot** *exp* a challenge to battle
**Alkaik** *n* a crude but addictive drug manufactured by prisoners on Lobnas II
**alm rodail** *n* senior navigator
**arosh** *n.* capital
**asog** *n* child
**Bal Gef** *n* Abh hell, a thin metaphor for a surface world
**bal suif** *n* Abh nobility
**Basroil** *n* the assault ship commanded by Lafiel
**bene rodail** *n* officer in-training
**bolkyuton** *adj* thirteenth
**bosnal** *n* soldier
**Breg Hunter** *n* name of the operation to capture systems untouched in Operation Phantom Flame
**byunkei supervisor** *n.* equivalent to the rank of lieutenant commander
**Byuru Gona** *n* Fourth Fleet, commanded by Admiral Bebaus
**Byuru Gana** *n.* Eighth Fleet
**Byuru Kasna** *n* First Fleet, commanded by Admiral Spoor
**Byuru Mata Fagyuk** *n.* Second Light Fleet, commanded by Admiral Dobvusu Abriel
**Byuru Matrokyutona** *n* Twenty First Fleet, commanded by Admiral Trife
**clyuno** *n* a communication device worn on the wrist
**Clyuve** *n.* name of the Abh Royal Family
**daz** *n* the vacuum of normal space
**dadeocks** *n* normal space
**Delktoe** *n.* an Abh world where Jinto spent his adolescence
**Dril Hydal** *n* Count Hyde (Jinto)
drosh fraktedal n a communications bubble necessary for sending messages in planespace
**fapyut** *n* an Abh term meaning lord of lords
**fazanzel** *n.* royalty
**feia kufena** *exp.* a term of affection reserved for royalty
**feia laltonel** *n.* your royal highness (female)
**feia lalto** *n* your royal highness (male)
Feiabel Paryun n Viscount Paryun (Lafiel)
**Fek Irik** *n* the Iryuush Kingdom
**fektodai skem** *n.* line wing aviator
**fektodai sazoil** *n* supply officer
**frash** *n* military transport ship
**frode** *n.* admiral
**frokaju** *n* Spatial Recall, a device built into the alpha that allows the recollection of three-dimensional, Abh illusory art
**furyu bal** *n* empire
**fwas** *n* planespace
**garisbu** *n.* fighting troops
**gasarus** *n.* a golden turd and symbol of Frode Spoor's flagship
**gedrel** *n.* a unit of space measurement
**gel** *n.* assault ship
**gol lyutcos** *n.* space-time separation
**gol putalos** *n.* space time fusion
**gona** *n.* fleet
**graga** *n.* flagship
**gragaf** *n* headquarters
**gryu** *n.* an Abh saber signifying command of a vessel
**hoksas** *n* mines
**hoksateyox** *n* space-time mines
**isazu** *n* supply vessel
**isazu vat** *n.* military personnel carrier
**kasaria drashot** *n* chief of communications
**karsal gululak** *exp.* kin of the stars the Abh
**kenle** *n* military academy
**kranraj** *exp.* punishment for a crime as only an Abh can deliver it
**kufalia** *n* territorial ambassador
**kufazet fullot** *n* evacuation plan

# ABH DICTIONARY

**lashu elkfal** *n* the Milky Way
**Labule** *n* Star Forces, the Abh interstellar military
**lalsu kyuv** *n.* a term for a powerful member of the Abh Royal Family a magnate
**Laltonei Clyuve** *n* Clyuve Royal Family
**laltosu** *n.* little prince
**lanjos relag** *n* data uplink
**lekle** *n.* overseer
**lenyuju** *n.* anti-proton cannon
**lesui** *n.* patrol ships large cruise ships used in the Abh fleet
**Letopan** *n.* a domain controlled by Spoor s family
**leukos** *n.* years in the Abh calendar
**lilblga** *n* navigator
**lonjos relag** *n.* information uplink
**lope** *n.* a sour Abh fruit resembling a lemon
**lue spenu** *n.* imperial admiral
**Lweyses** *n.* an Abh transport ship used in the evacuation of Lobnas II
**lyul** *n.* soup
**Martine** *n.* Jinto's home planet in the Hyde System
**manowas** *n* captain
**Melmil** *n.* a strategic planespace gate
**nadogu** *adj* diminutive for "son"
**nahen** *n.* surface world
**nahenud** *n.* lander (pejorative term)
**nif** *n.* duchess
**onyu** *n* idiot
**oton** *n.* broth
**pelia** *n* shuttle
**Peneju** *n* Abh domain attributed to Admiral Spoor, the Duchess of Peneju
rinyul n rear guard, equivalent to the rank of lieutenant
**ronyu** *n.* excellency, term of respect used to members of the nobility and royalty
**rowas** *n* an Abh rank necessary to command an assault ship
**roy kufalia** *n.* deputy territorial ambassador
**roy manowas** *n* acting captain
**royalum rodail** *n* second aviator
**Rusoomia** *n.* Abh transport ship capable of a water landing
**ryuryumata** *adj* five-hundred fifty-second
**salukuson** *adj* diminutive meaning "clever soul"
**Sankau** *n.* name of the Fourth Fleet Flagship commander by Neris Bebaus
**sashu skel** *n* second aviator
**sef sosu** *n* territorial chief
**Sekasuia Abrielsa** *n* hope of the Abriels
**shuwas** *n* a naval rank equivalent to captain
**seimei sosu** *n* territorial government or the representative of that government
**soku jenna** *exp* respectful phrase meaning "tough soul"
**sord** *n* gateway into planespace
**Sord Bolkyuton Ryureemal** *n* the thirteenth in a series of gateways in the Ryureemu sector
**Sord Lashu Elkfal** *n* planespace gateways in the Milky Way
**sosu** *n* literally people but could also mean co-nationals or crew
**spunej** *n* empress
**spunej elmita** *n.* her majesty, the empress
**suif** *n* nobility, used to describe individual (a suf) or the whole of nobility as a separate class (the suf)
**sup frasas** *n* space-time particles
**teal nom** *n* peach tea
**topia** *n* orbital station
**tosel** *n* atiministrator
**vok lanyu** *n* laser cannons
**wass kasalel** *n* chief of staff